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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Slain deer hunters case: A man accused of shooting six fellow deer hunters to death and wounding two others after being caught trespassing in the woods pleaded not guilty Wednesday.

Chai Sotay Vang, 36, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and will stand trial on six counts of murder and three of attempted murder. A judge set a trial date of Sept. 12.

Vang has suggested he acted in self-defense and feared for his life, telling investigators the victims fired a shot at him first and berated him with racist slurs.

US Airways problems: US Airways is trying to recruit volunteers willing to work for free over the New Year's weekend at Philadelphia's airport in order to avoid a repeat of a Christmas fiasco that left the struggling airline with too few workers to fly its planes and process baggage. The request seeks workers only at Philadelphia.

While the volunteers will not be paid for extra shifts, volunteers will be paid for regularly scheduled work, US Airways spokesman David Castelveter emphasized Wednesday. Company executives and managers would be taking part in the volunteer program, he said.

Slain pregnant woman: A federal magistrate Tuesday appointed public defenders to represent Lisa M. Montgomery on a charge that she kidnapped a fetus from a pregnant woman and left the mother dead.

Montgomery, 36, made her first appearance in a federal courtroom downtown and spoke barely above a whisper as she answered a few questions from Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge John T. Maughmer.

Maughmer told Montgomery that he had asked two lawyers from the public defender's office to attend the hearing in anticipation that she may need court-appointed legal counsel. He told her he would not ask for a plea on accusations against her but wanted to know if she was aware of the charges.

"Yes," she said quietly, acknowledging the accusations of the crime.

FBI counterterrorism chief: FBI Director Robert Mueller on Tuesday named Willie T. Hulon to lead the agency's counterterrorism division, the sixth person to hold the high-profile job since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Hulon, a native of Memphis, Tenn., has been a senior counterterrorism official since



Stone for Jesus' brother: The ossuary that reputedly held the bones of James, Jesus' brother, that was discovered in Israel appears to be forged, Israeli police indicted four antiquities collectors and dealers Wednesday, accusing them of running a sophisticated forgery ring that created a trove of fake biblical artifacts, including some hailed as among the most important archaeological objects ever uncovered in the region.

April after a two-year stint as head of the FBI's field office in Detroit. Hulon was cleared in February of any wrongdoing after an internal investigation found that three Detroit-area men had falsely accused him of leaking sensitive information to drug dealers.

World

Court-martialed reservist: A former Ohio Army Reserve commander who was court-martialed for taking abandoned Army vehicles in Kuwait so her unit could carry out its mission in Iraq returned home after serving a six-month sentence.

Maj. Cathy Kaus defended the actions taken by herself and her fellow soldiers. She said she has applied for clemency.

"What we did, we did at that time because we thought we needed to do that," Kaus said Monday at Dayton International Airport, adding that she would do it "all over again" if put in the same circumstances.

Kaus, released Monday from a Navy brig in San Diego, said she was convicted of theft, willful neglect, abandonment and conspiracy of abandonment.

Ukraine election dispute: Noisy, orange-clad opposition protesters on Wednesday blocked Ukraine's government head-

quarters and prevented Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich from convening a Cabinet session.

Irina Lobanova, a spokeswoman for the Cabinet, said that the meeting would not be held as planned—a decision that prompted the protesters to start abandoning their barricade, which winning presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko ordered Tuesday night to keep up pressure on his rival, who has refused to concede.

Yanukovich also said Wednesday that he would not bow to opposition pressure and resign from his post.

Afghanistan reform: Afghanistan's new defense minister praised his warlord predecessor and pledged to work hard to create a professional national army seen as a key to establishing long-term stability in a nation still reliant on regional strongmen and international troops.

Abdul Rahim Wardak said Afghanistan's National Army, or ANA, needed educated and professional officers to eventually take over security of the vast mountainous country.

Wardak said an ongoing drive to disarm private militias will be completed by March 2005, ahead of parliamentary elections scheduled for April.

Stories and photo from wire services

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Disease looms as next threat in Asia

BY SAM CAGE

The Associated Press

GENEVA — The United Nations warned Wednesday that respiratory and waterborne diseases could break out within days in areas affected by southern Asia's tsunami disaster. Millions of people across the region could be at "grave risk" from diseases such as cholera and diarrhea unless immediate action is taken to provide clean water, the U.N. children's agency said.

"Standing water can be just as deadly as moving water," said UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy. "The floods have contaminated the water systems, leaving people with little choice but to use unclean surface water."

Relief organizations are distributing medical supplies to prevent the outbreak of disease, but their main focus is dealing

Millions in tsunami-affected areas at risk for waterborne illnesses in coming days

with the wounded, said Jamie McGoldrick, an emergency relief coordinator of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in Geneva.

"Diseases will start to come through in the next few days," McGoldrick said. "No doubt people will be affected, kids are drinking stagnant water."

Governments in 11 nations are still trying to determine how many were killed in the devastation wreaked by Sunday's quake and the tsunami it caused. The death toll now stands at nearly 77,000 and is expected to rise.

It is still impossible to visit some isolated

islands off the northern coast of Sumatra and assessments can only be made from the air, McGoldrick said.

"Populations we haven't reached yet may suffer from disease," he said.

U.N. agencies will present their initial combined appeal to donors during "the first few days of January," McGoldrick added.

Worst-hit have been Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and the Maldives. But Malaysia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Somalia, Tanzania, Seychelles and Kenya have also reported deaths from the tidal wave that sped across the Indian Ocean Sunday morning.

The United Nations has sent disaster assessment teams to the affected countries and relief organizations are distributing supplies.

The U.N. refugee agency said Wednesday it is airlifting emergency supplies to shelter up to 100,000 in the Indonesian province of Aceh, which was closest to the epicenter of the earthquake. The dates of the airlift from Dubai have yet to be confirmed.

"The numbers and the needs are absolutely staggering," said U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers.

UNHCR is said it is delivering emergency supplies in Sri Lanka, as it already had stockpiles in the country.

"UNHCR has been able to rapidly get humanitarian aid to some 20,000 people, filling an important stopgap until international aid began arriving," the agency said in a statement.

Tsunami death toll likely to surpass 100,000

As casualty count climbs to nearly 77,000, aid workers bring relief and bury the dead

BY LELY T. DJUHARI

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Planes loaded with everything from lentils to water purifiers touched down across Asia Wednesday, the start of the largest relief effort in history, as aid workers predicted the death toll from this week's earthquake and tsunami would top 100,000. Military teams reaching the west coast of Indonesia's Sumatra island for the first time reported scenes of total devastation.

"We're facing a disaster of unprecedented proportion in nature," said Simon Misiri, Asia Pacific chief at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

"We're talking about a staggering death toll."

The toll on Wednesday soared to about 77,000.

The survey of Sumatra — nearest the epi-

center of Sunday's massive quake that launched a wall of water around Asia — highlighted the scale of the challenge relief organizations will face in the weeks and months to come.

In the first visit to the battered region, news crews flew over town after town that was covered in mud and sea water. Homes had their roofs ripped off or were flattened. There were few signs of life, except for a handful of villagers scavenging for food on the beach.

"The damage is truly devastating," said Maj. Gen. Endang Sutawira, the military commander of Sumatra's Aceh province, who toured the west coast by helicopter. "Seventy-five percent of the west coast is destroyed and some places it's 100 percent. These people are isolated and we will try and get them help."

With tens of thousands of people still missing, Peter Rees, operations support chief for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said the figure for the dead and missing would be "absolutely enormous."

"I would not be surprised that we are over 100,000 dead when we start seeing what's happened in, particularly, (India's) Nicobar and the Andaman Islands," he said.

More than 500,000 were reported injured. The federation has so far been unable to assess the total number of missing people.

"We have little hope, except for individual miracles," Jean-Marc Espaloux, chairman of the Accor hotel group, said of the search for thousands of tourists and locals missing from beach resorts of southern Thailand — including 2,000 Scandinavians.

One of those rare miracles was the reunion on Wednesday of an 18-month-old Swedish toddler with his father.

Days after Hannes Bergstroem was found alone at a roadside on Thailand's resort island of Phuket, his uncle spotted a photo of the scratched and mosquito-bitten toddler. On Wednesday, Hannes and his father, Marko Karkkainen, met for the first time since the tragedy at a hospital where both father and son were receiving treatment.

Meanwhile, wildlife enthusiasts in Sri Lanka were surprised to see no evidence of large-scale deaths of animals — indicating



Swedish boy Hannes Bergstroem, 2, reunites Wednesday with his father Marko Karkkainen in a Phuket hospital in Thailand in this image made from television. Hannes was found alone in the wasteland of a tsunami-hit resort island in Khao Lak, southern Thailand.

that animals may have sensed the wave coming and fled to higher ground.

But there were few reports of miraculous escapes in Indonesia, where the official death toll stood at 45,268. Authorities there said that did not include a full count from Sumatra's west coast, where more than 10,000 deaths were suspected.

Trucks dumped more than 1,000 unidentified bloated bodies into open graves on Sumatra and the navy sent a flotilla of ships to remote parts of the island.

In India, the death toll rose to nearly 7,000. Not included are some 8,000 missing and feared dead on the remote Andaman and Nicobar islands, east of the mainland.

Sri Lanka put its toll at nearly 22,500. Thailand said it had more than 1,800 dead and a total of more than 300 were killed in Malaysia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Somalia, Tanzania and Kenya.

Aid groups struggled to head off the threat of cholera and malaria epidemics that could break out where water supplies are polluted with bodies and debris.

Four planes arrived in the Sri Lankan capital, bringing a mobile surgical hospital from Finland, a water purification plant from Germany, doctors and medicine from Japan and aid workers from Britain, the Red Cross said.

Supplies that included 175 tons of rice and 100 doctors reached Sumatra's Banda

Aceh. But with aid not arriving quickly enough, desperate people in towns across Sumatra stole whatever food they could find, officials said.

Widespread looting also was reported in the Thai islands of Phuket and Phi Phi, where European and Australian tourists left valuables behind in wrecked hotels when they fled — or were swept away.

An international airlift was under way to ferry critical aid and medicine to Phuket and to take home shells-shocked travelers. Jets from France and Australia were among the first to touch down at the island's airport. Greece, Italy, Germany and Sweden planned similar flights.

Along India's southern coast, paramedics began vaccinating 65,000 tsunami survivors in Tamil Nadu state against cholera, typhoid, hepatitis A and dysentery, said Gagandeep Singh Bedi, a top government administrator.

The world's biggest reinsurer, Germany's Munich Re, estimated the damage to buildings and foundations in the affected regions would be at least \$1.6 billion.

Donations for recovery efforts came in from all parts of the globe.

The United Nations said it would launch an international appeal on Jan. 6 for money to cover the emergency phase of the operation, but U.N. officials have said billions of dollars will be needed to rebuild the shattered countries.



An unidentified person with his ailing wife and son sit in an Indian air force plane as they are evacuated from Nicobar in India's southeastern Andaman and Nicobar islands on Wednesday.

PAC pulls disaster-relief team together

3rd MEF to lead humanitarian efforts in tsunami-ravaged Southeast Asia

BY VINCE LITTLE

Stars and Stripes

Pacific Command officials in Hawaii have tapped the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force to spearhead humanitarian-assistance and disaster-relief efforts in Southeast Asia.

A forward command element along with three assessment teams are on their way to Utapao, Thailand, to establish the command, control and communication structure for Joint Task Force 536, which will be headed by Lt. Gen. Robert R. Blackman, commander of the Okinawa-based 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force.

Three Humanitarian Assistance Assessment Teams — comprising mostly military experts from fields such as civil and medical treatment, preventive medicine, contracting, civil engineering, logistics and water purification — left Wednesday for Southeast Asia. They'll determine the resources needed to aid victims in Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

PACOM officials plan to use the Thai military facility at Utapao as a regional support center for emergency and medical personnel providing assistance throughout the region. It'll also serve as a staging area for U.S. military and rescue aircraft, forensic experts and other relief assistance — with supplies being funneled out of Utapao to tsunami-ravaged areas.

The 3rd MEF makes up a significant chunk of the forward command element and joint task force, said Army Lt. Col. Vi Strong, a PACOM spokeswoman, but she added, PACOM personnel from other locations also will join the campaign.

The command element and task force will engineer the U.S. military effort in the region and work with the State Department, U.S. Agency for International Development, host nations and humanitarian re-



NATHANMEL T. MILLER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Sailors attached to USS Bonhomme Richard load supplies during a brief stop at Naval Base Guam on Tuesday. The Bonhomme Richard and its embarked Marines were scheduled to spend the New Year's holiday in port, but instead on-loaded supplies before departing to assist the victims of the massive earthquake and tsunami that ravaged nations around the Indian Ocean.

lief agencies to identify requirements and conduct humanitarian assistance.

"U.S. forces are moving rapidly to provide the needs and services requested by the governments of the region," Blackman said in a news release issued Wednesday. "Our primary concern is to prevent further loss of life, and to conduct sustained disaster relief operations."

Marine Lt. Gen. James T. Conway, director for operations, Joint Chiefs of Staff, updated the situation Wednesday at a State Department briefing in Washington.

"We have committed nine P-3 aircraft, four of which will operate out of Utapao, the other five will operate out of Diego Garcia," he said.

C-130 Hercules cargo planes from the 36th Airlift Squadron have embarked from Yokota Air Base, Japan, for Utapao, where they'll stage mid-range transportation runs throughout the region, said Maj. Bill Summers, the squadron's operations officer.

The first three of six C-130s left Tuesday, less than 24 hours after the squadron was notified about the mission.

The six C-130s will be operating out of the air base at Utapao, Conway said.

The remaining aircraft left Wednesday and stopped along the way to load humanitarian relief items from Kadena Air Base. More than 3,000 cases of Meals, Ready to Eat and four pallets of fresh water were processed through Kadena's cargo area Tuesday.

The aircraft will be used for localized air-lifts, making short runs around the devastated areas to haul relief aid.

The establishment of the forward-operating base in Utapao is the first step in what likely will be a broad effort.

"We're setting up the hub right now so we can be part of the spoke later on," Summers said. "We're going down there to provide some local relief. We're also carrying in humanitarian aid as we go down."

The mission's specifics are still being finalized, he added, as assessment teams gain more information.

Eventually, Yokota's 374th Airlift Wing will have about 100 people working in Thailand as part of the joint task force. Other airmen from Pacific Air Forces and Kadena will tackle separate missions.

Master Sgt. Mike Ferris, a 353rd Special Operations Group spokesman on Kadena, said the unit sent 40 personnel on two MC-130 planes to Thailand on Wednesday and plans to dispatch at least two more aircraft Thursday. They'll also become part of Joint Task Force 536.

"They'll be mostly command and control elements, logistical support personnel and aircraft members," Ferris said. "There will also be a medic on each plane."

SEE RELIEF ON PAGE 7

Troops on relief mission well fortified against disease

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

U.S. servicemembers deployed to assist nations devastated by Sunday's earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean shrank their main safe from diseases experts say could take as many lives as the disastrous events.

While on relief deployments, U.S. military personnel are advised of disease prevention methods, are inoculated to the hilt and travel with drugs effective against illnesses contracted in the tsunami-ravaged region, explained Capt. Jeff Alderson, spokesman for U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii.

"The units deployed to assist with the relief efforts carry their own water and purification systems," Alderson said during a telephone interview Wednesday. "They do everything needed for protection and have all the appropriate medicines. They're well trained for this."

"It's something we've done before," he added.

The affected populations face the threat of cholera and malaria epidemics where water supplies are polluted with bodies and debris.

"The initial terror associated with the tsunami and the earthquake itself may be dwarfed by the longer-term suffering of the affected communities," said Dr. David Nabarro, head of crisis operations for the WHO in Geneva, according to the Associated Press.

Pacific Command created a forward command at Utapao, Thailand, for command, control and communication functions. It also is the regional hub for emergency and medical personnel, and the staging area for military carrier strike group, officials stated in a release Tuesday. Both forces have emergency medical treatment capabilities.

"Whenever servicemembers deploy to another country, or even go on a vacation, we discuss disease prevention and make sure their inoculations are current," explained Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph Paul, a hospitalarian and leading petty officer at

the preventative medicine unit at the U.S. Naval Hospital at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

"We also routinely brief them about certain preventative steps, such as drinking only bottled water, and not eating anything sold on a stick in the streets," Paul said Wednesday.

Servicemembers are instructed not to eat anything unless it comes from an approved source, such as a ship's galley or food prepared in sanitary locations, he added. Food poisoning and cholera, an acute intestinal infection, can result from ingesting spoiled food or items prepared in unsanitary locations, or drinking contaminated water.

"We also tell them to only use ice in a drink made from purified water."

"Even in a cooler, if a can or bottle chills on ice made from unpurified water," he said, "and they forget to clean the excess water off the bottle opening or can top before drinking, they can get sick; it only takes a little of the bacteria."

Paul said a supply of antibiotics such as Cipro is carried on deployments to treat servicemembers with a foodborne illness such as cholera.

In addition, Paul said, personnel are advised to use insect repellent, wear long sleeves and slacks and refrain from venturing outdoors in the evenings — peak feeding time for mosquitoes, which spread malaria.

"It is a parasitic disease, and [servicemembers] are given a malaria prophylaxis treatment using specific scheduled doses," Paul said.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@stripes.osd.mil



Yokota Baptist Church

Pastor Warren Webster

日本語訳もあります YBC services are interpreted in Japanese

REACHING THE MILITARY AND JAPAN, ONE PERSON AT A TIME

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| <p>Yokota Christian Academy M-F</p> <p>Sunday</p> <p>Early Service 0830</p> <p>Sunday School 10:00</p> <p>Morning Service 11:00</p> <p>Evening Service 1800</p> <p>Monday</p> <p>Faith Bible Institute 1830</p> <p>Tuesday</p> <p>Soul Winning & Visitation 1830</p> <p>Wednesday</p> <p>Evening Service & Prayer Mtg 1900</p> <p>Patch & Pee Wee Clubs 1900</p> | <p>Friday</p> <p>Awana Club 1900</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>10:00 Mens Prayer Breakfast 1st Sat</p> <p>Ladies Meeting 1st Sat</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Dec 31 2100-2000 New Years Eve</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Meal, Preaching, "Time-Change Movie", Games</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">CH CH</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">What is missing?</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">0425-52-7254</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">www.yokotabaptistchurch.org</p> | <p>16</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Fussa Gate Term Gate</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em;">At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.</p> |
|--|---|---|

Misawa couple survives tsunami on honeymoon

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — The Shelbys waited a year for a honeymoon they now wish they could forget.

Airman 1st Class Chad Shelby and his wife, Megan, are among the survivors of the worst tsunami in recorded history.

They returned to Misawa on Tuesday night, tan and dazed, with numerous scrapes and bruises and a digital camera that recorded both the happiest of memories and the worst imaginable.

On Wednesday, after checking into the hospital and setting up an appointment to speak with a counselor at Life Skills, the Shelbys shared their story with Stars and Stripes.

Arrived a year, Chad, 20, an entry controller with Misawa's 35th Security Forces Squadron, and Megan, 21, celebrated their first anniversary by taking the honeymoon they never had in Thailand over the holiday.

After a visit to Chang Mai in the north, they were to spend several days in Thailand's famed southern paradise of Phuket. Sunday morning, the day after Christmas, the plan was to go scuba diving. The Shelbys were checking out gear and watching an instructional video at a scuba dive shop and bar on Patong Beach when all hell broke loose.

The first wave, which the couple estimates came ashore sometime after 9:30

a.m. local time, washed far up on the beach, dumping fish and crabs on the sand. The scuba instructor remarked he had "never seen anything like this," Chad said.

About two minutes later, another wave crashed into the scuba shack, trapping Megan and two others in a storage room.

"The water filled up to armpit level real quick," Megan said. "It just came in like somebody took a swimming pool, turned it upside down and dumped it on you. We didn't even know this was a tidal wave. We just didn't know."

Chad, who was outside the storage room when the wave hit, was able to climb up on the clay-shingled roof and pry the door open from above, freeing Megan and the others. Fearing more waves, the pair struggled to get up on another roof, helping, among others, a 3-year-old Japanese boy separated from his parents and a trembling, elderly Frenchman to higher ground. That's when they saw the third wave coming, a towering wall of water about 10 to 15 feet high, Chad estimated.

"I thought 'we have to get higher,'" Megan said. They jumped onto the top of another one-story building farther away from the beach with a few other people.

The giant wave crested palm trees on the beach and the Shelbys watched with horror as the top of the wave washed over the scuba shack, ripping it apart.

"It just came in like somebody took a swimming pool, turned it upside down and dumped it on you. We didn't even know this was a tidal wave. We just didn't know."

Megan Shelby

were about 50 to 60 feet from the beach at that point.

"Everything on the beach was gone," Megan said. "Most of the concrete buildings still stood, but the windows were gone. Every piece of furniture was gone. It was just like a gutted, empty house. There were TVs, computers, shoes, food strewn all along the beach. The water just washed everything away."

The Shelbys didn't see anyone die, but they won't forget the sounds.

"People screaming for their children, for loved ones. The biggest thing you heard was the ocean. Everyone was looking for

the next wave to come crashing," Megan said.

Chad and Megan waited in the baking sun for three hours with an Australian and a few other tourists on the roof. The water level in the streets below had receded to about 5 to 6 inches. Some locals helped them down and back to their hotel room. They had scratches, bruises and gashes from falling.

Their hotel on Patong Beach weathered the waves, and because they still had their passports and airline tickets, the Shelbys were one of the first flights out of Phuket on Monday, the same day they were scheduled to leave.

Four days later, the near-death experience seems like a dream. The young couple simply can't believe they survived.

"I actually thought we were going to die," Megan said.

Megan credits her husband for not panicking when the second wave blew into the scuba shack.

"I was just thinking of how to get higher, just survival I guess," Chad said. "If either one of us had panicked, we would have just died."

A beach lover, Megan said it will be a long time before she sets foot near an ocean again.

"Nobody had any warning," she said. "I just feel so sorry for the people who died, who didn't make it."

"We're so lucky," Chad said.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svanjp@pstripes.osd.mil

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Bush announces coalition to help in relief effort

By DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush announced Wednesday the United States, India, Australia and Japan have formed an international coalition to coordinate worldwide relief and reconstruction efforts for the Asian region ravaged by a deadly earthquake and tsunami.

"We will prevail over this destruction," Bush said from his Texas ranch in his first comments on Sunday's disaster.

Bush said the catastrophe had "brought loss and grief to the world that is beyond our comprehension," and pledged a multifaceted response from the United States. In the short term, the help will include damage assessment teams and U.S. military manpower, such as a Marine expedition-

ary force followed by long-term rebuilding assistance. He said he'd also examine a suggestion from German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder to consider putting a moratorium on the debt of hard-hit Somalia and Indonesia.

"We'll look at all requests," said Bush, who talked by phone Wednesday morning with leaders from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and India.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, coordinating relief assistance, telephoned U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Foreign Ministers Nobutaka Machiura of Japan and Alexander Downer of Australia.

Meantime, the International Monetary Fund said it will work with governments affected by the disaster to provide reconstruction and financial assistance. But de-



An airport crewmember prepares relief supplies to transport to Aceh Province at Halim Perdana Kesumah base in Jakarta on Tuesday. AP

tails have not been worked out, with governments more focused now on dealing with the immediate humanitarian crisis, officials of the financial institution said.

Bush called on Americans to donate cash to relief organizations to augment the response and said he expected several other nations to join the coalition started by the four countries.

He expressed concern the Asian region wasn't prepared with a warning system that foretold the massive tsunamis and

threw his support behind creation of a worldwide system.

Bush also pointedly dismissed a United Nation official's suggestion that rich nations like the United States have been "stung" in relief efforts. "I felt like the person who made that statement was very misguided and ill informed," Bush said.

Hundreds of Americans remain missing. Bush said U.S. officials were working hard to locate many more Americans who remain unaccounted for and to provide assistance to those who were injured or displaced in the region.

Despite ruin, forces still on terror watch

By PAUL ALEXANDER

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Security forces on alert for possible terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia during the Christmas-New Year holidays are trying to remain vigilant, although their focus has shifted to coping with the tsunami that has devastated regional coastlines.

Dealing with the disaster aftermath across the region with about a dozen countries affected by Sunday's earthquake and resulting tsunami "divides attention," said senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, head of the Philippine National Police's anti-terrorism office.

"We have a certain degree of vulnerability," he added, suggesting terror groups might try to take advantage of the chaos as attackers killed recently in his country.

While the Philippines was spared the havoc that its neighbors have suffered this week, it has been destroyed by brutal storms that killed over 1,000 people when a large timebomb was found on a bus in Manila on Christmas Eve, just before it was set to explode.

Still, terrorist or militant groups face the same limits on their movements as anyone else because local infrastructure has been destroyed, noted Bradley Allan, a security consultant.

Allan said it is also unlikely that terrorists or militants will attack U.S. or local government troops providing relief because it hurts their public image.

U.N. official's comment hits U.S. charity nerve

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush defended American generosity Wednesday, even as his administration figures out how to pay for more help beyond the \$35 million it has already promised to tsunami victims in Asia.

In his first remarks since the weekend disaster, Bush took umbrage at a U.N. official's suggestion that the world's richest nations were "stingy," and indicated much more is expected to be spent to help the victims.

Bush noted that the United States provided \$2.4 billion "in food, in cash, in humanitarian relief to cover the disasters for last year. ... That's 40 percent of all the relief aid given in the world last year."

But the journey from the \$35 million to potentially \$1 billion or more in help for the tens of thousands of latest victims is fraught with bureaucratic twists.

Such figures were what prompted Jan Egeland — the United Nations' emergency relief

coordinator and former head of the Norwegian Red Cross — to challenge the giving of rich nations.

"We were more generous when we were less rich, than the rich countries," Egeland said. "And it is beyond me, why are we so stingy, really. ... Even Christmas time should remind many Western countries at least how rich we have become."

Egeland told reporters Tuesday his complaint wasn't directed at any nation in particular.

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Relief: Help coming by air and by sea

RELIEF, FROM PAGE 3

"We will be part of the advance group, a headquarters element with capabilities to conduct air drops and provide airfield assessment teams and ground controllers in places where existing air-

fields have been heavily damaged."

Meanwhile, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, also sent command and control personnel — along with some equipment — to Thailand. About 50 airmen, part of the 13th Air Force and 613th Contingency Response Group, left Wednesday afternoon on a KC-135, said Tech Sgt. Bryan Gatewood, an Andersen spokesman.

Col. Rod Gregory of Andersen will command the joint task force's Air Force element.

"Basically, they'll be controlling the flow of airlift operations" from Utaqap, Gatewood said.

Ships stemming to Southeast Asia that could be committed to humanitarian assistance, if necessary, include the USS Shoup, USS Shiloh, USS Benfold, and USS Kanier — all assigned to the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group.

Expeditionary Strike Group 5 — with the USS Bonhomme Richard, USS Duluth, USS Missil,

USS Rushmore, USS Thach, USS Pasadena and USS Muro — also is bound for the region.

There are 200 Marines and 1,400 sailors embarked aboard the Bonhomme group and with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

PACOM will send five ships with fresh-water production capability, Conway said.

"Each ship can produce 90,000 gallons of fresh water a day, and of course that'll be extremely valuable as we have a number of requests already for fresh water supply," Conway said.

A ship with a field hospital will also be sent, he said.

Two more ships based at Diego Garcia with a 90,000-gallon fresh water capability will be sent as soon as possible.

PACOM recently played an integral role in disaster relief in the Philippines, dispatching about 600 Marines to assist flood victims there.

David Allen, Juliana Gitter and Pat Ockison contributed to this report. E-mail Vince Little at: little@stripes.osd.mil

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Officials: Donations best for relief support

Stars and Stripes

Many U.S. base officials across the Pacific are telling residents that cash donations are the best way for individuals to support relief efforts after Sunday's massive earthquake and deadly tsunami left tens of thousands dead and millions homeless across Southeast Asia.

Officials at Misawa and Yokota air bases in Japan suggested donating to the American Red Cross.

Misawa American Red Cross Station Manager Jason Ramlow said his organization is mobilizing staff and volunteers from international Red Cross chapters to assist with immediate needs in the affected areas.

He briefed Misawa units Tuesday about the online donation process — at www.redcross.org —

which he said is secure.

Donations made to the Red Cross International Response Fund help with supplies, technical assistance and other support, according to the Web site, and will be used to help those affected by the recent tsunami in southern Asia and other humanitarian crises around the globe.

At Yokota, Deanna Swanier, deputy hub manager for Yokota's American Red Cross, said people wishing to donate also can call (800) HELP-NOW.

On Guam, Andersen Air Force Base and Guam Naval Base spokesmen said residents are being referred to the U.S. Agency for International Development at <http://www.usaid.gov>, keyword: Donations.

The USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance recommends

For a list of U.S. aid agencies, visit www.stripes.com/relief.html

against spontaneously collecting commodities or offering untrained volunteer services, which can hamper relief efforts," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Jonathan E. Annis, a spokesman for U.S. Naval Forces Marianas, Guam.

"Due to the scope of this disaster and the immediate need for coordinated relief, cash donations are encouraged and should be arranged through relief organizations."

Other collections:

Misawa Air Base

The Misawa First Sergeants Council is accepting donations to help with south Asia relief efforts, according to Tech. Sgt. Mikal Canfield, a base spokesman. The First Sergeants Council will accept contributions from any individual or private organization at Misawa.

Once donations have been collected, the council will present the donated sum to the American Red Cross. Call DSN 226-9549 for more information about how to contribute. Canfield noted that the Misawa First Sergeants Council is a private organization and not affiliated with 35th Fighter Wing.

Sasebo Naval Base

Cmdr. Harvey Ranard, command chaplain, said planning was under way Wednesday to support a coordinated base-wide relief effort.

"Since the need for support is so great and will exist for a number of weeks to come, we are taking the time to research all viable options so we can be prepared to put forth our very best effort," he said.

"At a minimum, donations of money will be sought and channeled through an appropriate relief agency."

Sasebo also is checking into possible near-future transport resources, which may allow community members to donate needed items such as clothing and food.

Logistics hindering efforts to account for Pacific personnel

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — U.S. military officials still are working for a full accounting of their personnel in the wake of Sunday's deadly earthquake and tsunami that pounded popular tourist destinations across the region.

U.S. Forces Korea officials said Wednesday they were continuing efforts to account for South Korea-based members

who were in tsunami-affected areas.

They did not provide the number of personnel or information on their current circumstances.

On Tuesday, USFK spokeswoman Air Force Lt. Col. Deborah Bertrand said the process is going slowly because "infrastructure damage has made communications difficult."

On Wednesday, a Marine Corps spokeswoman on Okinawa would not state how many personnel were vacationing in the affected areas.

"That's a force-protection issue," said Staff Sgt. Suki Forbes.

Forbes said personnel on vacation "have contact numbers with their individual units that they are expected to use in

such instances. We have not been made aware of anyone missing."

And Jeff Martin, chief of staff for Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Pacific, said 14 teachers believed to have been vacationing in Thailand still were unaccounted for as of Wednesday.

He said they "are believed to be on their way back, so that's why we haven't been able to contact them."

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At least 29 killed in ambush of Iraq police

Insurgents' false tip leads security forces into deadly explosion

BY DUSAN STOJANOVIC

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents lured police to a house in west Baghdad with an anonymous tip about a rebel hideout, then set off explosives, killing at least 29 people and wounding 18 in the latest in a series of deadly strikes against Iraqi security forces, police said Wednesday.

The explosion late Tuesday erupted from inside the house in the capital's Ghazaliya district as officers were about to enter, a local police official said. Ten neighboring houses collapsed from the blast and several residents were believed trapped under the rubble. Seven policemen were among the 29 dead.

The police official said the attack was "evidently an ambush" and that "massive amounts of explosives" were used. He said the explosion was apparently triggered by remote control.

The U.S. military said Wednesday 1,700 to 1,800 pounds of explosives appear to have been used. It added that American soldiers and Iraqi troops worked together through the night to pull potential survivors from the rubble."

Brig. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, assistant commander of the 1st Cavalry Division that controls Baghdad, said the house that exploded was booby-trapped.

"The insurgent has no respect for life and an insurgent is anti-Islam," he said.

Hammond said U.S. troops and Iraqi security forces launched an offensive south of Baghdad on Wednesday with an aim of "capturing or detaining or killing insurgents."

Car bombs, ambushes and assassinations killed a total of at least 54 people in the Iraqi capital and across the volatile Sunni Triangle on Tuesday, including 51 policemen and a deputy provincial governor.

The attacks — including one in which 12 policemen had their throats slit — were the latest by insurgents targeting Iraqis working



An Iraqi man stands outside houses destroyed in a blast in west Baghdad on Wednesday. Insurgents lured police to a house in west Baghdad with a tip about a hideout Tuesday night, then set off explosives, killing at least 29 people and wounding 18, police said Wednesday. Seven policemen were among the dead.

with the American military or the U.S.-backed government ahead of the Jan. 30 national elections.

Hammond said the violence is expected to escalate before the ballot.

"We anticipate that the enemy will [continue with] attacks, intimidation, assassinations and other messages designed to destroy life in Baghdad," Hammond said, adding that Iraqi security forces will bear the brunt of providing security for the elections and that U.S. troops will back them up only if needed.

Iraqi forces launched a series of raids Wednesday in Baghdad's northern neighborhood of Azamiya and in the town of Mah-moudiya, just south of the capital, detaining at least 50 suspected insurgents — including several Syrians, the government said. The statement also said an Egyptian citizen, who was identified as Salah, was captured in Baghdad's central Karrada neighborhood. He had explosives and terrorist propaganda, it added.

The U.S. military said in a statement Wednesday that the Iraqi security guards repelled three separate attacks by insurgents who tried to seize two police stations in Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad.

Also on Wednesday, a firefight erupted between U.S. troops and militants in the central Iraqi city of Samarra, witnesses said.

There were no reports of casualties. Shiite Muslims, who make up around 60 percent of Iraq's people, have been strong supporters of the elections, which they expect to reverse the longtime domination of Iraq's Sunni minority. The insurgency is believed to draw most of its support from Sunnis, who provided much of Saddam Hussein's former Baath Party membership.

A Defense Ministry spokesman in Baghdad confirmed Wednesday that the Iraqi National Guard — a paramilitary internal security force that has borne the brunt of the anti-insurgency effort — will be merged with the regular armed forces.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,325 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,040 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Tuesday.

The British military has reported 75 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,187 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 931 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Todd D. Olson, 36, Loyal, Wis.; Monday after being injured Sunday by an explosive in Samarra, Iraq; assigned to the National Guard's 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry Regiment, Neillsville, Wis.

Government: Two top terrorist aides arrested

Saddam's trial set to start in early 2005

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Two senior aides of Iraq's most feared terrorist leader, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, have been arrested, the deputy prime minister said Wednesday.

He also said Saddam Hussein would be tried early 2005.

Security forces arrested an al-Zarqawi aide identified as Abu Marwan in the northern city of Mosul, Barham Saleh said, adding that the man is believed to have been responsible for supplies and weapons. Another aide, Reda Bazany, reportedly in charge of communications, was arrested in Baghdad.

Al-Zarqawi's group, which recently declared allegiance to Osama bin Laden, is believed to be responsible for numerous

car bombings and beheadings of foreign hostages in Iraq.

Commenting on arrests of other members of his defunct regime did not say when the trials will start. Saddam and the other defendants appeared in court in Baghdad in July on charges of war crimes and genocide.

Saleh also condemned several terror attacks that killed at least 30 Iraqi officers Tuesday, killing at least 30 officers.

He said suspected terrorists had also been arrested in the southern city of Najaf, where a Dec. 19 suicide bombing killed about 50 people. Two of those arrested were from Saudi Arabia and one was from Morocco.

Bush denounces bin Laden's call for Iraqis to boycott January elections

By DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush on Wednesday denounced Osama bin Laden's call to boycott the Iraqi elections, saying that the balloting marks a crossroads for Iraq.

"The stakes are clear in this upcoming election," Bush told reporters at his Texas ranch. "It's the difference between the ability for individuals to express themselves and the willingness of an individual to try to impose his dark vision on the world, on the people of Iraq and elsewhere. It's very important that these elections proceed."

In an audiotape broadcast Monday, bin Laden called for a boycott of the election and said the Iraqi vote — for a national assembly to write a constitution — is being held under an interim commitment "imposed by the American occupation" and "infidel" be-

cause it did not rely solely on Islamic law.

"Therefore, everyone who participates in this election will be considered infidels," bin Laden said.

The tape surfaced the same day the largest Sunni Muslim political party that had planned to take part announced its withdrawal, saying security was worsening and Iraqis did not understand the political process well enough to vote.

Bush said bin Laden's vision stands in stark contrast to one viewed by a vast majority of Iraqis — that freedom of expression and the right to vote should prevail in Iraq.

"His vision of the world is where people do not participate in democracy," Bush said. "His vision of the world is where people kill innocent lives in order to affect their behavior and affect their way of living."

The president said he talked on

Tuesday with the president of the interim Iraqi government, Ghazi al-Omari, who expressed concern about security in Mosul but said most people in Iraq — Sunni and Shia — want to cast ballots.

"The task at hand is to provide as much security as possible for the election officials, as well as for the voters," bin Laden said. Mosul, to encourage them to express their will," Bush told reporters at an airplane hangar at his ranch.

Responding to complaints that U.S. troops are not adequately armed, Bush said his administration has stepped up the production of armored Humvees. He said other vehicles being used in the war that require different armament will be better armed by midsummer 2005.

"What I know is that the Defense Department is working expeditiously with private contractors and with our military to get these vehicles armed up," he said.

IN THE STATES

Marine shot to death after police chase

Stars and Stripes

A Twenty-nine Palms Marine who led Los Angeles police on a high-speed chase after allegedly killing a transgender prostitute in Hollywood was shot to death by officers, according to a report in *The Palm Springs, Calif.* Desert Sun.

Lance Cpl. Patrick Edward Vallor, 22, an MP, allegedly pointed a gun at pursuing officers in a McDonald's restaurant parking lot in the Atwater Village area early Sunday, Assistant Chief Jim McDonnell said.

Vallor apparently picked up a prostitute he believed was a female, investigators told *The Desert Sun*. When he discovered the prostitute was a man, the Marine allegedly killed the man and dumped the body.

Officers first fired a beanbag round to subdue Vallor, but he pointed his weapons at officers and he was shot. Officer Jack Richter told the paper Monday.

Welcomed rescue



Los Angeles County firefighters Sally Ortega, left, and Eddie Arguelles escort an unidentified woman from her stranded car in Harbor City, Calif., on Tuesday, after a fierce storm flooded the area.

FDA approves new, powerful painkiller

By LAURA MECKLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Patients who suffer severe chronic pain and are no longer helped by morphine will soon have a new option.

The Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday approved the first in a new class of drugs that blocks the nerve channels responsible for transmitting pain signals. It will be marketed as Prilnit and should be available by the end of January.

The drug is part of a new class known as N-type calcium channel blockers. It is known chemically as ziconidone.

Morphine is standard treat-

ment for severe pain from cancer, AIDS, amputations and other significant illnesses, but its effects eventually wear off and the dosage must be increased. At some point, many patients switch from taking medication by mouth or by injection to a microinjection pump implanted under the skin that delivers drugs directly into the fluid surrounding the spinal cord.

Dr. Lars Ekman, president of research and development for the drug's Ireland-based manufacturer, Elian, said 35,000 to 50,000 Americans have these pumps now. The FDA approved Prilnit for patients who are already using these pumps but not getting effective relief from them or who cannot tolerate the available treatments.

'Law & Order' star dead at 69 of cancer

By FRAZIER MOORE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Actor Jerry Orbach, who played a sardonic, seen-it-all cop on TV's "Law & Order" and scored on Broadway as a song-and-dance man, has died of prostate cancer at 69, a representative of the show said Wednesday.

Orbach died Tuesday night in Manhattan after several weeks of treatment, Audrey Davis of the public relations agency Lippin Group said.

When his illness was diagnosed, he had begun production

on NBC's upcoming spinoff "Law & Order: Trial By Jury," after 12 seasons playing Detective Lennie Briscoe in the original series. His return to the new show had been expected early next year.

On Broadway, the Bronx-born Orbach starred in hit musicals including "Carnival," "Promises, Promises" (for which he won a Tony Award), "Chicago" and "42nd Street."

Earlier, he was in the original cast of the off-off-Broadway hit "The Fantasticks," playing the narrator. The show went on to run for more than 40 years.

Among his film appearances were roles in "Dirty Dancing," "Prince of the City" and "Crimes and Misdemeanors."

Orbach is expected to appear in early episodes of "Law & Order: Trial by Jury," for which he continued as Briscoe in a secondary role, when the series premieres later this season, Davis said.

"I'm immensely saddened by the passing of not only a friend and colleague, but a legendary figure of 20th century show business," said Dick Wolf, creator and executive producer of the "Law & Order" series, in a statement.

"He was one of the most honored performers of his generation. His loss is irreplaceable."

In a 2000 Associated Press interview, Orbach said the role in the acclaimed "Law & Order" brought him "wonderful security," rare in the life of an actor.

He said he didn't know "where I stop and Lennie starts, really... I know he's tougher than me and he carries a gun. And I'm not an alcoholic."

"I know I wouldn't want to be him," Orbach summed up. "I guess THAT'S where I stop and he starts."



Jerry Orbach

No asteroid coming in 2029

PASADENA, Calif. — Additional observations have ruled out the chance that a recently discovered asteroid, believed to be about 1,300 feet long, could hit Earth in 2029, NASA scientists said.

Last week, asteroid 2004 MN4 had been given a small chance of impacting Earth, based on observations in June and again this month. Astronomers then began independent efforts to find earlier observations of the asteroid.

The Spacewatch Observatory near Tucson, Ariz., found faint pictures of the asteroid in archival images dating to March 15, the Near Earth Object Program Office, located at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said in a statement on its Web site this week.

The pictures from March allowed scientists to refine the asteroid's projected trajectory.

A 'Times Square' in Kansas

MANHATTAN, Kan. — New York, eat your heart out. So goes the message from this heartland town known as the Little Apple, where a New Year's event modeled after the one in Times Square is planned.

Organizers of the second annual Little Apple New Year's Eve Celebration and Ball Drop expect attendance to balloon this year.

Kate Watson, an organizer of the Little Apple celebration, said there has been a 70 percent increase in traffic this year at the event's Web site. She said she's hoping last year's crowd of 4,800 revelers will grow to 8,000.

A five-foot-diameter aluminum ball will be lowered at the New Year's Eve celebration from a 20-foot-tall marquee at a Manhattan bookstore.

From The Associated Press

Author, activist Susan Sontag dies

By HILLET ITALIE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Susan Sontag, a leading intellectual and activist of the post-half century who influenced the way many thought about art, illness and photography, died Tuesday. She was 71.

Sontag died Tuesday, said Esther Carver, a spokeswoman for Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan. Her son, David Rieff, said the cause was complications of one of the deadliest forms of leukemia. Sontag had suffered off and on from cancer since the 1970s.

"I knew Susan since 1962 and I know how much she suffered and how brave she was facing her illness," fellow author Carlos Fuentes told The Associated Press in Mexico City.

Tall and commanding, her very presence suggested grand, black accented drama: eyes the richest brown; thick, black hair parted by a bolt of white; the voice deep and assured, her expression a severe stare or a wry smile, as if amused by a joke only she could tell.

She wrote a best-selling historical novel, "The Volcano Lover," and in 2000 won the National Book Award for the historical novel "In America." But her greatest literary impact was as an essayist.

Her 1964 piece, "Notes on Camp," which established her as a major new writer, popularized the "so bad it's good" attitude toward popular culture, applicable to everything from "Swan Lake" to feath-

er boas. In "Against Interpretation," this most analytical of writers worried that critical analysis interfered with art's "incantatory, magical" power.

She also wrote such influential works as "Illness as Metaphor," in which she examined how disease had been alternatively romanticized and demonized, and "On Photography," in which she argued pictures sometimes distance viewers from the subject matter. "On Photography" received a National Book Critics Circle award in 1978. "Regarding the Pain of Others," a partial refutation of "On Photography," was an NBC finalist in 2004.

Sontag was deeply involved in politics and campaigning for human rights. From 1987-89, she served as president of the American chapter of the writers organization PEN.

When the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini called for Salman Rushdie's death because of the alleged blasphemous of Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses," Sontag helped lead protests in the literary community.

"She was a true friend in need," Rushdie said in a statement Tuesday. "Susan Sontag was a great literary artist, a fearless and original thinker, ever valiant for truth, and an indefatigable ally in many struggles."



Sontag

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SIPC

YOUR MONEY

'Free' inspection can cost

Dear Tom and Ray:

At my last oil-and-filter change, the service department at the local Subaru dealer did the "free 25-point inspection" and came back with the following diagnosis:

1. Replace valve cover gkt at \$230
2. Rear oil seal at \$620
3. Frt cam seal at \$450
4. Lft frt axle at \$270

(I've reported the acronyms verbatim, because I'm not sure what they mean.) I've made an appointment to have these done next week, but I am wondering if this is for real. What is the probability that so many items would fail all together, nearly all at once? My husband thinks that at 50,000-70,000 miles, one should expect to put in a couple thousand dollars in repairs. The car is a 1998 Subaru Legacy Outback wagon and has 63,000 miles on it. It was driven in flat and humid Houston for the first 30,000 miles, and in hilly, very dry Tucson, Ariz., since then. At the previous oil-change visit, I was told about a nonurgent small leak related to the "frt cam seal," but no other problems. Thanks for your analysis! — Renee

RAY: Well, that 25-point inspection wasn't so free after all, was it, Renee? That's more like "25 chances to find stuff we can fix for you!"

TOM: These are all separate jobs, Renee. There's no advantage or "discount" if you do them all at the same time. So, let's look at each one individually.

RAY: The lft frt (left front) axle is a wear item, which means it's something that wears out over time. Its failure can be hastened by tearing one of the CV boots, which can be a result of age, kicked-up road debris or driving over a petrified Barry Goldwater lawn sign.

TOM: But if the axle is already failing, there's no rush. You'll hear a clacking noise during acceleration on turns as it gets worse. When that starts to

drive you nuts, you can replace it then.

RAY: The frt (front) cam seals (there are two of them on this car) leak a lot on Subarus. We replace them all the time. So, it makes sense to me that one or both would leak at 60,000 miles, and you might as well replace both of them.

TOM: But while they're doing that, they should absolutely replace the timing belt and the water pump, too. Both of those will need to be done soon, and the timing belt has to come off anyway to replace the front cam seals. It'll cost you a little more than \$450 to have all that done (maybe \$650), but you'll save a lot on labor by doing them all at once.

RAY: Up top, there are actually two valve cover gkts (gaskets) on this engine. We've had very good luck just tightening the valve cover bolts — that often stops the leak. So, they should certainly try that before they replace the gaskets for \$320.

TOM: And in terms of the rear oil seal, in all my years of working on Subarus, I have never replaced a rear oil seal. My guess is that it is leaking somewhere else (like the front cam seal) and blowing to the back of the engine, where your mechanic is mistaking it for a rear oil leak. So I'd leave that one alone for now, pending further evidence.

RAY: What you can do is, after the valve covers are tightened and the front cam seals are replaced, you can have your engine steam-cleaned. There have someone look at it again in three months. On a clean engine, any additional oil leaks will be much easier to spot and locate.

TOM: So how's that, Renee? Figure \$650 for the cam seal, timing belt and water pump, and another \$350 to steam clean the engine. We just saved you almost a thousand bucks!

RAY: Send us half, and we'll call it even, kid.

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ST. PETERSBURG (FLA.) TIMES-NEWS

Michele Harrington, 53, rides on her 1996 Springer Softail Harley-Davidson. "We women have broken the glass ceiling a tad and we're able to afford these things," said Jamie Rosenkranz, owner of Jim's Harley-Davidson in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Female hog riders: Firms' fast friends

BY KRIS HUNDLEY
St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times

Move over, Hell's Angels: A growing number of career women with discretionary income and no use for stereotypes are buying motorcycles and hitting the road.

Nationwide, women accounted for nearly 10 percent of all motorcycle owners last year, up from 8.2 percent five years earlier, according to the Motorcycle Industry Council.

While scooters are the most popular category, with nearly 25 percent owned by women, heavyweight bikes also are attracting more female riders. Last year, Harley-Davidson said it sold 23,000 bikes — or about 10 percent of its inventory — to women, up from 600 bikes, or an estimated 2 percent of the total, in 1985.

The latest generation of motorcycle fanatics are quick to point out how they differ from the caricature of a bikie babe.

"A lot of women have ridden on the back of motorcycles and they've gotten tired of it, because you can't see anything or do anything back there," said Jamie Rosenkranz, owner of Jim's Harley-Davidson in St. Petersburg, Fla. "Plus, we women have broken the glass ceiling a tad and we're able to afford these things."

Prices for Harleys range from about \$9,500 for Sportsters to \$20,000 and up for more powerful Softails and V-Rods. Extra chrome, accessories and apparel can put thousands of extra dollars on the tab.

Rosenkranz said she used to be able to count fellow female riders on one hand. Now she knows women doctors, lawyers and judges who have become converts.

Although they continue to get some second looks, seeing women enjoy their motorcycles is becoming more common, both for the riders and the bystanders.

TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

| INDEXES | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|
| 52-week High | Low | Name | Last | % Chg |
| 18,868.77 | 9,769.49 | Dow Jones Industrials | 10,824.54 | +78.1 |
| 3,883.75 | 2,743.46 | Dow Jones Transportation | 3,811.62 | +57.29 |
| 337.63 | 259.98 | Dow Jones Utilities | 337.70 | +2.64 |
| 7,229.13 | 6,211.33 | NASDAQ Composite | 7,248.81 | +45.54 |
| 4,068.72 | 3,526.74 | American | 4,068.72 | +1.68 |
| 2,171.94 | 1,750.82 | NYSE Composite | 2,171.93 | +22.07 |
| 12,147.1 | 10,760.72 | S&P 500 | 12,154.86 | +13.14 |
| 650.72 | 545.29 | S&P MidCap | 652.45 | +45.00 |
| 16,172 | 515.39 | Russell 2000 | 6,645.17 | +102.3 |
| 11,971.4 | 76,265.52 | DJ Wilshire 5000 | 11,961.40 | +100.04 |

| NYSE | | | AMEX | | | NASDAQ | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Most Active (\$1 on move) |
| INTC |
| 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |

| KEY DEFENSE STOCKS | | | | | KEY MUTUAL FUNDS | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-----|------|-------|
| Name | DF | PE | Last | % Chg | Name | NAV | MAV | Last | % Chg |
| Alliant Technology | 37 | 16.75 | 2.39 | +15.6 | Fidelity Invest: Growth | 38.28 | 2.4 | +3.0 | |
| Boeing | 11 | 16.75 | 2.39 | +15.6 | Fidelity Divd Growth | 38.28 | 2.4 | +3.0 | |
| Lockheed Martin | 1.00 | 15.25 | 38.04 | +3.8 | Fidelity Divd Growth | 38.28 | 2.4 | +3.0 | |
| Northrop Grumman | 1.44 | 16.75 | 2.39 | +15.6 | Fidelity Divd Growth | 38.28 | 2.4 | +3.0 | |
| Raytheon | 20.27 | 58.00 | 38.04 | +3.8 | Fidelity Divd Growth | 38.28 | 2.4 | +3.0 | |
| General Electric | 30.24 | 36.00 | 32.00 | +12.4 | Fidelity Divd Growth | 38.28 | 2.4 | +3.0 | |
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| Raytheon | 20.27 | 58.00 | 38.04 | +3.8 | Fidelity Divd Growth | 38.28 | 2.4 | +3.0 | |
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| Raytheon | 20.27 | 58. | | | | | | | |

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House arrest with no charges

Today I read the Dec. 24 letter "Curfew just a morality move." After reading this letter, and several from one of my co-workers, I had the following thoughts on the issue. As a Christian, father and husband, I can easily understand (U.S. Forces Korea commander) Gen. Leon J. LaPorte's policy concerning human trafficking and prostitution, and our need to support the South Korean government's efforts to put an end to both. This is a moral and humane obligation that should be extended to all people, regardless of race, creed, color or religion.

What if we have a very difficult time understanding is why a force-pledged United States that nears martial law (the 2400-4500 curfew against all status of forces agreement personnel) is being used to enforce and implement the eradication of these two problems against civilians? Has the State Department issued a travel advisory prohibiting U.S. citizens here as tourists from walking freely after midnight? Answer: No, and a check of the U.S. State Department Web site indicates there are no travel advisories for South Korea. Should I send my dependents home to protect them from the threat that keeps us locked up from midnight to 5 a.m.?

What is the real issue at hand here? I think we can sum it up in one word: trust. The bottom line is that the command does not trust us to hold our families or ourselves to the moral standard they hold for themselves.

I am 41 years old, have served 20-plus years in the military, and the last three as a government contractor here in the Republic of Korea. My wife is a naturalized U.S. citizen of Korean birth, and I have two children, 16 and 12. South Korea has

Tell us what you think

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been my home since 1996, and 12 years overall. I am not here on a short tour, or on a two-year tour; I live here and am very involved in not only military-related activities, but in my local community and church as well as that goes with it.

Under current USFK curfew guidelines, I cannot take my youth group camping overnight, as it would violate the curfew. We cannot have a youth lock-in at the church we attend off-post, as it would violate the curfew. I cannot really travel freely throughout the ROK, as I would eventually end up violating one aspect or another of the curfew. If my family visits here, they would enjoy more freedom as tourists than I do as a near resident of South

Korea, and would be able to move around freely. Since the command does not trust us to take charge of our families and enforce moral standards, they have decided to place us under house arrest.

Chief Warrant Officer John M. Horan (Ret.)
Osan Air Base, South Korea

KBR men applauded

They call themselves the Iron Pony Express. They are the American civilian KBR truck drivers who haul every letter and every package from APO to P.O. across Iraq. And as a soldier who has worked with them every day for the past 10 months, I want to thank them.

Until just recently, these men, who carry no weapons, rode the main supply roads and alternate supply routes of Iraq with no more ballistic protection than the individual armor vest on their chest and the Kevlar helmet on their heads. They have been attacked with roadside bombs, rocket-propelled grenades, small-arms fire and indirect fire right along with the gun trucks among them. Some have been wounded. Some have been killed.

These men have been the ones who wiped our tears each time we lost a fellow soldier and patted our backs after another mission well done.

These men don't complain about the relatively little protection they have. These men don't worry about Bronze Star Medals or Combat Infantryman Badges. They are proud of their heads. They have been attacked with roadside bombs, rocket-propelled grenades, small-arms fire and indirect fire right along with the gun trucks among them. Some have been wounded. Some have been killed.

Spec. Kitty Pous
Camp Victory, Baghdad

If Rumfeld leaves, it'll be on his terms

The Providence (R.I.) Journal

The interval between a presidential election and inauguration, especially when the election is a re-election, is something of a black hole as far as news is concerned. Most Americans are concentrating on the holidays — and Thanksgiving through New Year's — and Washington is frozen in expectation. Congress is in recess most of the time, and the main excitement is to be found in guessing which executive branch officers will stay or go.

Now that President Bush has reshuffled the Cabinet, attention is concentrated on Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. A lot of people would like to see Rumsfeld out of office and are disappointed or angry that his retirement has not been announced. After President Bush stated that his defense secretary would stay into a second term, certain senators found that public speculation about Rumsfeld or better yet, calls for his

resignation — would generate coverage during the holiday doldrums. And pundits, eagerly searching for subject matter, have been quick to weigh in on Rumsfeld's virtues and defects.

We would not be unhappy to see Rumsfeld go. While he has accomplished many great things during his tenure, he may also be said to have very seriously misjudged the postwar environment in Iraq, and has been slow to correct errors and misperceptions. He is not the first secretary of defense to do so, and he won't be the last; but if anyone should be held accountable for things gone wrong in postwar Iraq, Donald Rumsfeld tops the list.

As public servants go, he has had a distinguished career; but he is not indispensable.

Having said that, however, two points must be made. The first is that, while we may disagree with many of Rumsfeld's decisions, he has done nothing that demands his resignation; no major cor-

ruption, no catastrophes (albeit some disasters and tragedies — such as the Dec. 21 Mosul bombing), no glaring incompetence.

Point No. 2 is that, as far as we are aware, President Bush is satisfied with Secretary Rumsfeld's performance and, in the absence of impeachable offenses, the president's is an opinion about Rumsfeld that should count far more than anyone else's. After all, the president's people around him whom he can trust.

Our suspicion is that Rumsfeld would like to step down well before the second Bush term is out. He is to be commended much of what he planned to do in the Pentagon, and he has been under enormous strain and pressure during the past four years — especially since Sept. 11, 2001. After next month's Iraq elections, and the future of the American occupation has been clarified, President Bush and Secretary Rumsfeld will probably start talking about a successor. But not until then.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



OPINION

There's also power in how world responds

Chicago Tribune

A natural disaster on the staggering magnitude of the earthquake that struck beneath the Indian Ocean reminds us of our vulnerability, reminds us that the work of human beings, indeed our very existence, can be extinguished in an instant by the immense power of nature.

Humans build. Nature reclaims. It is a cycle as old as time: people enduring the crucibles of drought, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanoes, fire.

Now the world watches in utter astonishment and horror the destruction wrought on Sunday by the most powerful earthquake in decades and the resultant tsunami that exploded on the shores of several nations.

What began off the Indonesian island of Sumatra was felt thousands of miles away as water engulfed villages, tourist beaches and fishing boats across South and Southeast Asia. More than 76,000 people were killed, a number that is destined to grow as thousands of missing people are accounted for. Millions were left homeless in a ring of destruction from Indonesia to Somalia.

Earth's power could barely be comprehended as water traveled at speeds of up to 500 mph — akin to an aircraft hurtling in the sky — with people killed even thousands of miles from the quake's epicenter.

It was as if an earthquake hit Los Angeles and killed New Yorkers.

"The speed with which it all happened seemed like a scene from the Bible, a natural phenomenon unlike anything I had experienced," wrote The Washington Post's Michael Dobbs, who was among those caught up in the catastrophe.

Now, just as naturally as the earth shook, the people of the Earth will come to the aid of those who have been stricken. We come to accept that as an expected response to disaster. But revel in that for just a moment. For all its economic, political and philosophical tensions, this is still a world that responds to great tragedy with great and instant compassion.

The United States immediately committed \$15 million to relief efforts, the European Union pledged \$4 million with, no doubt, more to come as disaster assessments are made. United Nations relief specialists called for helicopters, medical supplies, tents and portable sanitation facilities. The United States dispatched military aircraft to the effort.

There will, inevitably, be talk about why this vast region did not have a system to warn of such impending devastation. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service operates tsunami warning centers in Hawaii and Alaska. According to news reports, if the Indian Ocean had the type of system that was started in 1965 in the Pacific, thousands of lives might have



What's left of the main bus stand in Galle, Sri Lanka, is shown Tuesday. It was destroyed by massive waves caused by Sunday's magnitude 9.0 earthquake off Indonesia's coast.

been saved if alerts of the impending disaster had been received and coastal areas had been quickly evacuated. There were hours between the time the earthquake was recorded and the walls of water rolled into the coastal areas.

Tsunami is a powerful word, a word often used in metaphors for great and uncontrollable forces in politics, sports and

other venues.

On Sunday the world saw just how great and uncontrollable a tsunami is, not as a metaphor but as an event of nature. And in the days and weeks ahead we'll see another force, one perhaps more easily controlled, but powerful nonetheless: That's the force of human compassion, human drive, human will to rebuild.

New faces adopted old phrases in Campaign 2004

BY MARTIN SCHRAM

Scraps Howard

Looking back, 2004 was the sort of campaign year that could make you flip. Especially if you are a politician.

Take a close look at some key campaign slogans, arguments and policy fighting-word mantras — then compare them with their roots. You will find that the rationalizations dished by America's politicians and the political influencers have come full circle. Which may be one reason why liberals and conservatives sometimes looked ludicrous as they frantically chased their own tails.

Just look at where the candidates, spinners and influence-seekers wound up in their sloganeering on major issues of Campaign 2004 — and compare it with where those same arguments actually began.

Consider the emotional arguments about "states' rights." In 2004, "states' rights" was the rallying cry sounded mainly by liberals who were pushing their favorite solution for legal same-sex marriages.

Their rationalization was that the question of whether to legally permit marriage of gay or lesbian couples is the sort of civil right that should be left to the 50 states to decide for themselves.

Conservatives who were opposed to legalizing any homosexual marriages argued that this was a matter of national values that must be governed by one national policy that defines a marriage as only a union of male and female couples.

But in the 1950s and 1960s, cries of "states' rights" were played on the flip side. It was the conservatives who made "states' rights" their mantra, as they argued that it should be up to each state to decide whether to permit segregation of the races in public accommodations and schools. It was the liberals and moderates who championed the argument that civil rights was an inherent right that had to be imposed upon all states.

Consider now the battles over deficit

spending. Liberals rallied round the argument that the federal budget deficits are soaring, driving the national debt to record heights. And the Democratic team of John Kerry and John Edwards made it a staple of their stump speeches to argue that it is unacceptable for the federal government to begeth this vast debt to our children and grandchildren to repay.

Conservatives made the case that these deficits are not to be feared, but are just a manageable byproduct of tax-cutting policies that are America's key to prosperity.

But listen now to what the original conscience of the conservatives, the late Sen. Barry Goldwater, used to say about the deficit spending brought about by Democrat-controlled Congresses, especially President Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society" programs, championed by liberals. "With all the excuses Congress still manages to come up with in support of big spending, the nation is headed for financial disaster," the Arizona Republican wrote in "Goldwater," his autobiography. "It's a damn disgrace. The Con-

gress has now put Americans about \$2.5 trillion in hock. That's more than \$10,000 for every man, woman and child."

Consider next the wallings of liberals who decry the way Christian evangelical clergy members such as Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell have injected themselves into American politics in pursuit of their conservative fundamentalist agenda, which includes the campaign to ban all abortions.

But then recall the crucial leadership roles played by clergymen such as Martin Luther King Jr., Andrew Young and, later, Jesse Jackson in forging the civil-rights movement that contributed so much to correcting wrong-headed laws that deprived so many Americans of their rights.

Consider the activist role of a number of Roman Catholic bishops in Campaign 2004, as they said they would not give communion to politicians who advocated policies that the church opposed. There is evidence that their position may have had its desired effect.

President Bush received 46 percent of the Catholic vote in 2000 against the Protestant

Democrat Al Gore. But Bush did 2 percent points better in 2004, winning 48 percent of the Catholic vote against his Catholic opponent, Kerry. The Massachusetts senator said that, as a Catholic, he personally opposed abortion, but would not allow his religious views to affect his enforcement of U.S. laws and court decisions.

That was the position that U.S. Catholics overwhelmingly cheered — when it was first enunciated, not by Kerry, but by John F. Kennedy, in that historic speech in Houston before Protestant clergy on Sept. 12, 1960. He vowed that he would make decisions on issues including birth control "without regard to outside religious pressure or dictate. And no power or threat of punishment could cause me to decide otherwise."

That forthright pledge helped a Catholic Democrat from Massachusetts become America's first Catholic president. And on the flip side, that pledge may have helped prevent a second Catholic Democrat from Massachusetts from becoming president.

Martin Schram writes political analysis for Scraps Howard News Service.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



THE POLYSTERS:

"I RESOLVE TO REVIEW ALL MY DATA..."

"...I'LL PRACTICE, WORK HARD AND REHEARSE! NEXT ELECTION, I KNOW I'LL DO BETTER..."

"...BECAUSE THERE'S NO WAY I COULD DO WORSE..."

Club faces fine

GA ATLANTA — The mayor is threatening a country club with up to \$90,000 in fines for refusing to extend spousal benefits to the partners of gay members.

Mayor Shirley Franklin said in a letter to the Druid Hills Golf Club that the club violated Atlanta's human rights ordinance, which requires businesses to treat domestic partners registered with the city as married couples.

Franklin said she is ordering the city solicitor to fine the club \$500 a day for up to six months — a total of \$90,000 — unless the rule is changed. The solicitor will decide when the fines will begin.

Windy business

MA BOSTON — Town leaders in the Cape Cod community of Yarmouth have long been on record opposing the wind farm proposed for the waters off its beaches, even passing a resolution two years ago expressing their disapproval for the plan to erect 130 wind turbines in Nantucket Sound.

But the Yarmouth Board of Selectmen also quietly negotiated with Cape Wind Associates for a raft of benefits worth millions. If the \$700 million project gets federal and state approval, underwater transmission lines would come ashore in Yarmouth and tie into the electrical grid.

"We did it essentially to protect Yarmouth," said Suzanne McAuliffe, chairwoman of the Board of Selectmen. "We don't have a say in the actual wind farm, whether its going to happen or not."

Botulism sales banned

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — Two doctors and their Arizona company were barred from selling an unapproved botulism toxin believed to have paralyzed four people who used it instead of Botox, the popular anti-wrinkle treatment.

Doctors Chad Livdahl and Zarah Karim, of Toxin Research International Inc., do not have governmental approval for the "use, sale, marketing and promotion" of the toxin for treating wrinkles, according to a statement from U.S. Attorney Marcos Jimenez in Miami.

An emergency restraining order against the company and doctors also covers three sister companies: Powderz Inc., The Cosmetic Pharmacy Inc. and Z Spa Inc.

Language barrier

VT BURLINGTON — Advocates for Vermont's growing number of foreign language interpreters say the workers need legal protection so they won't have to testify in court about their jobs.

Sylvia Delcastillo-Alzamora, a Spanish-English translator, says testifying about her work "would be betraying the ethics of the profession."

Professional interpreters adhere to a code, she said, that prohibits them from publicly discussing or offering opinions about their conversations with clients.

Currently, Vermont law offers foreign-language interpreters no protection from being called as witnesses in cases in which they were first asked to translate words from



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

one language to another.

Suspected pot in trailer

AR VAN BUREN — After he ran from police twice, authorities have arrested a Massachusetts man who is accused of carrying 27 packages of suspected marijuana nested in bales of hay inside a horse trailer.

State police say Everton Garriques was a passenger in the vehicle pulling the trailer, which also contained two horses. More than 800 pounds of suspected marijuana was found in the Christmas Day stop.

Arkansas State Police Cpl. Olen Craig stopped the pickup truck for speeding and having no license plate light, an ASP dispatcher said.

Man survives fall

OH MEDINA — A man whose car plunged 30 feet off a highway overpass and landed wheels down in the snow-covered median between lanes of freeway traffic escaped with only minor injuries.

"The front air bag deployed and right after that I felt a floating sensation," Michael Doner said. "I thought, 'I'm either dreaming or I'm falling.'"

Doner, 60, of Medina, was making the three-hour drive to visit his mother on Christmas when a car skidded into his and a second car

slammed into him, sending his car over the railing of the bridge over Interstate 71 about 30 miles southwest of Cleveland.

Doner had a broken collarbone and cracked ribs, and was sent home less than six hours after the fall. "I'm very lucky," he said. "The guy upstairs was looking out for me."

Elvis' backwash

NC BELMONT — Wade Jones likes Elvis, but he insists it's just a casual fan.

That's why, after watching a grilled cheese sandwich thought to be embedded with the image of the Virgin Mary fetch \$28,000 on eBay, he decided to part with three tablespoons of water from a cup he says Elvis Presley used during a concert.

"It's one thing to be an Elvis fan, but then you tell them you have this cup and water and they think you're a fanatic," he said. "I'm not like the people bidding on this water."

Jones was 13 when he went to see the aging Elvis in February 1977 at the old Charlotte Coliseum, which is now Charlotte Arena. He saw the pop icon drink from the cup and, after the show, asked a police officer for it.

As proof of its authenticity, Jones provides photos of Elvis during the concert in which cups can be seen.

Found after 23 years

CA SACRAMENTO — A vintage 1963 Ford Fairlane stolen 23 years ago from Greenville, S.C., has turned up some 2,600 miles away in California.

California Highway Patrol officers called Terry and Robin Smith to tell them authorities had recovered the vehicle.

"What a wonderful gift at Christmastime ... after 23 years to receive news that they'd found our car," Robin Smith said.

Someone brought the car into the CHP's San Bernardino office for inspection. A sharp-eyed officer noticed the car's identification number didn't match and began investigating.

CHP's Lt. Greg Williams said authorities don't believe the people who brought the car in had anything to do with the theft.

Smith said the car was a wedding gift from her parents, but the couple have not decided whether to bring it home or sell it in California.

Ferret recovery efforts

AZ PHOENIX — Endangered black-footed ferrets are reproducing more and surviving longer in the wild in Arizona than they have since recovery efforts began nearly a decade ago, wildlife biologists say.

Biologists found 28 ferrets in the last two years in Arizona that were born in the wild — more than double the number found during any two-year period since a reintroduction program began in 1996.

"The success in Arizona is great," said Mike Lockhart, a ferret recovery coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"If it continues along the same path, it could quickly become a self-sustaining population."



Horsing around

Horses play in their pasture at Sweet Tree Farm in Dummerston, Vt.



Mill in the mist

Smoke rises from the International Steel Group steelmill in Sparrows Point, Md.



Supporting the arts

Workers with Premier Outdoor Enterprises Inc. support entertainers as they work on a billboard for the Kansas City Ballet in Kansas City, Mo.



Surf's up Thomas Chapman of Long Beach, Calif., sits on the sand south of the Seal Beach, Calif., pier as he rests between rides on his body board.



Little big shot Matthew Witt, 1, looks at the hoop as he plays with a basketball in Carey Park while enjoying the day with his parents, Michael and Debra, in Hutchinson, Kan.



Incredible ride Visitors ride the Incredible Hulk Coaster at Universal's Islands of Adventure in Orlando, Fla.



Wind riders Three monk parakeets brace themselves against a stiff breeze as they perch on a wire in Surfside, Fla.

Surrogate of 3 at age 55

VA RICHMOND — A 55-year-old woman acting as a surrogate for her daughter gave birth to triplets.

Tina Cade, who already had three children, delivered the babies by Caesarean section at Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital.

She had carried the babies for her oldest daughter, Camille Hammond, who suffers from endometriosis, a condition affecting the lining of the uterus that makes it difficult to become pregnant.

Hammond and her husband, both doctors at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, had tried for four years to become pregnant.

Cade started hormone treatment last winter, and in the spring she underwent test-tube fertilization. Three embryos were implanted and all three survived.

"We didn't plan for triplets," Cade said recently. "I thought we would be blessed with one. It was quite a surprise."

Christmas mail stolen

ND FARGO — Police say thieves pried open banks of mailboxes in at least 19 apartment buildings on this city's south side over the holiday, probably looking for money in Christmas cards.

Authorities say the thieves gained access to the mail of more than 100 tenants. They're still trying to determine how much was stolen.

Woodlands preserved

VT BRATTLEBORO — A group of townspeople has raised the money needed to buy 31 acres of woodlands in the heart of the town that will be preserved as a popular area for hikers and cross country skiers.

Ownership of the land was transferred to the nonprofit Windham Foundation and the Vermont Land Trust, and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board holds an easement on the land.

"For the past 20 or 30 years, the land has been unofficially used for hikes and nature walks," explained Tom Marten of Brattleboro, a member of the group Friends of the Western Avenue Woodlands, which formed last year to conserve the land. "This is land that ought to be conserved so it can continue to be used."

With little street-side frontage and plenty of hilly and rocky areas, the land was not prime for development, although Marten said it is excellent for recreational activities such as biking, walking and nature viewing.

The land — which was mostly pasture just more than 100 years ago — is known to have plenty of deer, birds and some aquatic life.

Weed grower sniffed out

CO BOULDER — A bank teller's nose led authorities to a substantial marijuana-growing operation.

An employee at the First National Bank of Colorado called authorities after processing several cash deposits that reeked of the illegal weed. The Boulder County Drug Task Force followed up the tip with a search of a home that resulted in the discovery of more than 6 pounds of packaged marijuana and 270 plants and pieces of plants.

Michael Bruce Bliss, 30, was ar-

rested at the home and has been charged in the case. Bliss frequented the bank weekly, according to a search warrant, with deposits of \$20 bills in amounts of \$800 to \$1,500.

Fluoride fight

AR LITTLE ROCK — A fight is brewing over a legislator's suggestion that the state's water supply be fluoridated.

Rep. Tommy Roebuck said he may introduce a bill that requires all communities to fluoridate their water.

Opponent Sherry Johnson, president of the Arkansas Health Freedom Coalition, said, "If you want fluoride, go to the dentist and get fluoride."

School's board selection

AL AUBURN — A panel reviewing 30 names to fill a single vacancy on the Auburn University board of trustees expects to select its choice by Feb. 1, when the Legislature meets.

The five-member trustee selection panel has begun interviews for the at-large vacancy. The Alabama Senate will vote on their choice.

Election baby welcomed

NH MEREDITH — A couple who stopped at Town Hall to vote just hours before the birth of their son have been rewarded for their loyalty by President Bush, who penned a personal note welcoming the baby.

Kim Dixon waited in the car while her husband, Shawn, dropped off their absentee ballots on Nov. 2. Tyler Matthews was born arrived at 6:43 p.m., weighing in at 9 lbs.

"In the late stages of labor, our only entertainment was watching the election returns," Shawn Dixon said.

In the days before Tyler's birth, Dixon had drawn a portrait of the president, framed it and mailed it to the White House with a letter thanking Bush for keeping America safe and telling him about the baby.

"We wanted to do something to say thank you. We were concerned about bringing a baby into the world. He was the guy making us feel safe," Dixon said.

Schools to combine

WA EVERETT — Five Christian schools are combining to create a new school system in Snohomish County and north Seattle.

The schools have more than 1,200 students. By combining resources, school officials hope to offer more specialized classes such as advanced placement courses for college-bound students.

AIDS hot line shut down

RI PROVIDENCE — The state's AIDS hot line is going dead after 18 years.

It has experienced less demand as people seek information elsewhere. The hot line received up to 5,000 calls a year until the mid-1990s but only about 500 this year.

Callers will instead reach a national hot line operated by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

Though it's the last day of the year and therefore the last chance to celebrate 2004, the Virgo moon along with other planetary influences has us in an industrious mood. Squeezing as much production into the day as possible is a prerequisite for getting into the party mood tonight. The drinking is tempered, as health is a big New Year focus.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER 31. You're basically hot this year. Look forward to improved health and vitality. If becoming more fit is one of your New Year's resolutions, you will find it easy to keep through January. This spring, emotional issues regarding home and family are resolved, freeing you up to take full advantage of a period of intense creativity beginning in August.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A woman in your life pokes and prods at your psyche, inspiring you to re-think your plan for New Year's Eve. What? You still don't have a plan for the evening? At least resolve to take on an enthusiastic attitude.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're feeling energized and can blow through an entire day's worth of duties in half the time. Why not cut out of a boring situation and spend some time prepping for your New Year's celebration? You're gorgeous in green.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your plucky wit doesn't make sense to everyone — just the most important people. You'll meet someone over food or drinks. Plant yourself by the snack table, and get chatting. By midnight, you've found someone to kiss.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The most romantic nights are in, not out. Forgo the parties — and drunk drivers — in favor of snuggling in front of the TV with your sweetie. Single? Host friends or family at your place.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Any socializing you do tonight is likely to have a strong work component. If

you're not actually going to a job-related event, you may meet someone in your field or exchange business cards with an interesting stranger.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). New Year's bash at your house? The cosmos is working in your favor — expect to pull it off!

Holiday Mathis



without a hitch. The place is immaculate, the food divine. Just remember to stop running around long enough to have fun!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Go ahead and indulge your senses. A smorgasbord of gastronomic delights awaits you. You can start your diet tomorrow. Better yet, for your best chance for success, wait until after the new moon on Jan. 11.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Clashing with a loved one can be enlightening. Don't fear conflict — it's important to clear the air so you can get on with your new year. Stick to your guns if you must, but making up is more fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Let them just try to stop you from painting the town red tonight! You've worked your tail off this year, and nobody knows it better than you. Go ahead — let loose. A night of unrestrained celebration is certainly well deserved.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Life is looking pretty darned good from where you're standing. Your social life rocks, and you've got folks at the office wrapped around your little finger. Now, if only you could find the perfect outfit for tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Let someone else be the designated driver. If there's a checkpoint within a 10-mile radius of you, you're likely to be pulled over. And indicators suggest a bout of heads with authority figures — yikes! Better safe than sorry.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You feel as if you're working at cross-purposes with an important woman in your life. In fact, you're not, but it's challenging to see the forest for the trees. This lesson is one you'll be happy you learned before the new year rings in.

Creators Syndicate

Calvin and Hobbes



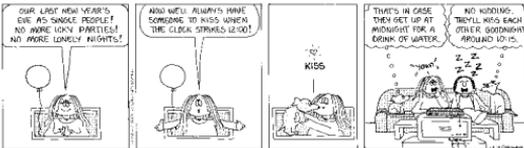
Jump Start



Zits



Catly



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Froxtrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



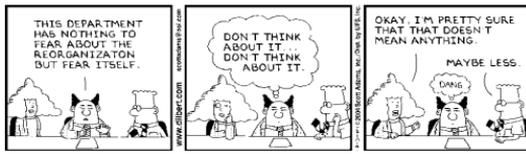
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



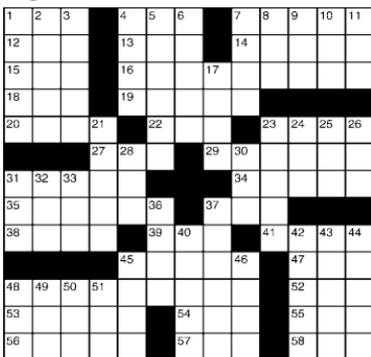
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Fall behind
4 "Encore!"
7 Foolish
12 The whole enchilada
13 Cleo's slayer
14 Wipe out
15 Slapstick missile
16 Intimate
18 "The — Daba Honeymoon"
19 Seraglio
20 Pizzazz
22 Fresh
23 Not naked
27 Young fellow
29 Deli order
31 "Forever —"
34 "Fame" singer
35 Liveliness
37 Beast of burden
38 "Hee Haw" humor
39 Grier or Tillis
41 Physical
45 Odometer tally
47 "Less Than Perfect" star
48 Reason to say "Whew!"
52 Oklahoma city
53 Whoopi's "The Color Purple" role
54 Carnival venue
55 Feminine side
56 Medical device
57 Chart
58 Pigpen

Down

- 1 Bolivian city
2 Out of, sorts?
3 Accumulate
4 Baroque composer
5 "Survivor" setting
6 Fern seed
7 Consider
8 Annoy
9 Zero-star review
10 Omega precursor
11 On the other hand
17 Wilds a needle
21 With 23-Down, Cruella's portrayer
23 See 21-Down
24 Legislation
25 Charles chum
26 Conk out
28 Circle segment

30 Six-pack, maybe

- 31 Jennings' employer
32 Cattle call
33 It sticks to you
36 Grand-scale tale
37 Aviatrix's forename
40 Frighten
42 They provide inside information
43 Taxpayer's dread
44 Labor leader George
45 Bump into
46 Feed the hogs
48 IV meas.
49 Rent
50 Flamenco cheese
51 Sermon subject

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-31

CRYPTOQUIP

F E M D V U Y N O K O I D Q Z
E O V K G K O I Q M X I J D J M G
E M D Z B Y Q M G M D Z I " G M Z
F D J M E K B Z I O J Q M X
U G Y Z N M . . .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT DO YOU CALL FOUR UNLUCKY FELLOWS WHO HAPPEN UPON QUICKSAND? QUATTRO SINKO!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals P

Mother should give child space

Dear Abby: I am 35 and the mother of a 10-year-old daughter, "Savannah," who is in the fourth grade.

Savannah claims that I am smothering her. She is not allowed to have sleepovers, and she may not attend any of the school parties her friends throw. No sugar is allowed in our house unless it is a special occasion like a birthday. Whenever she goes to a friend's house, I call every hour to see how she is doing.

In the kitchen, Savannah is not allowed to use the stove, the oven, the blender, or any other appliance unless I am there to supervise.

My daughter attends an all-girls school because I don't want her exposed to some of the things boys do when they are her age. Savannah is not allowed to wear makeup, and I shop for her. Every morning, before she

leaves home, she must come to me so I can monitor what she is wearing.

Abby, I love my daughter very much, and I only want what is best for her. Do you think I am smothering her?

—**Good Mom in Houston**

Dear Good Mom: I believe you are a caring parent, but I also think you have gone off the deep end. In the name of being a conscientious parent you have placed your daughter under virtual house arrest. How is your daughter to learn to be independent and make intelligent decisions if you restrict her every move?

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I'm a college sophomore, and my roommate, "Sal," is driving me crazy. She talks down to me when we're in a group. She'll hijack my conversations and answer for me, even though I'm standing right there.

I'm not the only person who feels this way. Sal talks down to everyone. She also tries to intimidate us physically. She shoves the guys around, and if the girls annoy her, she stands up as tall as she can, looks down her nose at us and announces, "I can out you!" On one point, she pinned me to my bed and tried to shove food in my mouth because she didn't believe I ate enough.

The few times we've tried to talk to Sal about this, she became defensive and stormed out, as she snarled that we are all immature and should grow up. We've about had enough. Can you help?

—**Living with the Alpha Dog**

Dear Living: From your description, the girl has problems beyond what you and I can solve. Counseling could help her, but only if she's willing to face the fact that she needs help.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can email to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.foxpress.com/dearabby> or <http://www.foxpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ERRAM

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GERME

LUSHIM

SUPCAM

www.pardle.com

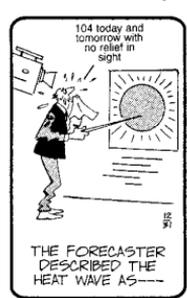
Ans: A

Yesterday's

Jumbles: CREEK LYRIC UNHOLY BEHEAD

Answer: What was left with when hair came out the wrong color — A HUE AND A CRY

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Don't let wild toddler ruin visit

Dear Annie: After numerous e-mails and phone calls with my sister-in-law, we could hardly wait for a week's visit from my brother's family. After the first night, however, my relatives were in total shock after witnessing the behavior of my brother's 2-year-old daughter, "Misty."

Misty walked all over our furniture, constantly screaming, hitting, pinching and pushing everyone she encountered. She even hit her parents and her 8-year-old brother. She is the most unhappy child I have ever seen.

We have a 3-year-old who plays beautifully with other children.

Misty was abusive to her cousins, and at no time did her parents discipline her. When Misty was awake, there was a lot of tension. When she was asleep, we all had a great time.

I couldn't sit and watch Misty abuse my daughter, so I finally

Annie's Mailbox



confronted my brother and his wife. They swore up and down that they had never seen Misty act this way before and she has never had a problem playing with other children. Yet every time Misty screamed, hit or walked on my furniture, I was told repeatedly by her parents that "Misty just needs her space."

I'm just so hurt and frustrated that a 2-year-old could ruin a visit. I realize the child is not to blame if her parents have not done their job properly. I do not care to be around Misty or subject my child to her. But I had such a great time with my brother, his wife and their son that I'd love to see them again. They want us to visit next summer. What should I do?

Misty's Hostage
Dear Hostage: Toddlers, fortunately, change a great deal over a short time and, by next year, Misty may be much better behaved. Try

not to pass judgment so soon. By all means, plan to see your brother next summer, but make reservations at a nearby motel, so you can control how much time you spend with Misty.

Dear Annie: My birthday falls on New Year's Eve. I got fed up with not being sufficiently recognized, and I now start working my birthday into conversations about six weeks ahead of time. ("Did you know it's only five weeks to Christmas and only six weeks to my birthday?") It has since become an office joke and is never forgotten. I recommend this approach to anyone whose birthday is neglected.

—**Born as a Tax Deduction**
Dear Tax Deduction: A sense of humor (and some persistence) can go a long way. And, oh yes, Happy Birthday.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

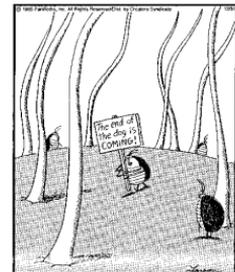
Family Circus



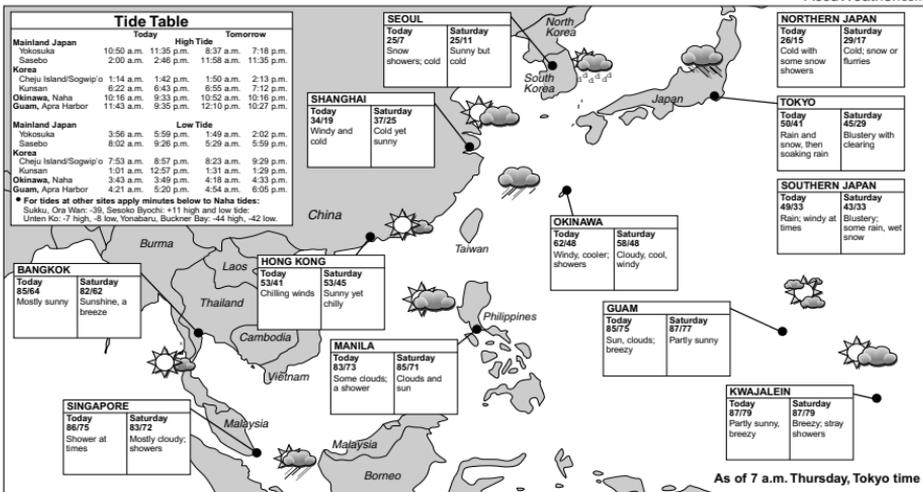
"Daddy, would you lie down on my bed and warm it up for me?"



Dennis the Menace



The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| TOKYO Sunday: Mostly sunny, high 40, low 33. Monday: Partly sunny, high 47, low 38. | KADENA Monday: Mostly cloudy, high 62, low 54. Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 67, low 60. | SEOUL Sunday: Mostly sunny, high 33, low 21. Monday: Snow flurries, high 36, low 16. | MANILA Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 85, low 73. Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 85, low 73. | HAGATNA Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 87, low 77. Monday: Showers, high 86, low 77. |
|--|--|---|---|---|

Wednesday's USA Temperatures

| CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW |
|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| Albuquerque | 56/36 | Los Angeles | 60/48 |
| Amarillo | 64/43 | Little Rock | 62/52 |
| Anchorage | 2/16 | Louisville | 52/45 |
| Ashville | 62/34 | Miami | 75/65 |
| Baltimore | 52/33 | Milwaukee | 39/32 |
| Birmingham | 65/47 | Nashville | 59/48 |
| Bismarck | 38/27 | New York | 47/35 |
| Boise | 46/34 | Omaha | 54/42 |
| Boston | 44/28 | Orlando | 73/53 |
| Brownsville | 81/60 | Philadelphia | 50/33 |
| Buffalo | 39/30 | Phoenix | 66/53 |
| Burlington | 33/11 | Pittsburgh | 46/38 |
| Charleston, SC | 67/40 | Portland, OR | 47/37 |
| Charlotte | 60/36 | Portland, ME | 42/16 |
| Cleveland | 42/25 | Salt Lake City | 47/34 |
| Columbus, OH | 43/38 | St. Louis | 60/52 |
| Duluth | 28/22 | San Antonio | 72/57 |
| El Paso | 64/50 | San Diego | 64/52 |
| Hartford | 45/24 | San Jose | 65/52 |
| Helena | 35/22 | Tampa | 75/54 |
| Indianapolis | 45/42 | Tulsa | 67/56 |
| Jacksonville | 71/45 | Washington | 54/39 |
| Kansas City | 61/52 | Wichita | 59/50 |

Friday, December 31



U.S. Extended Forecast

New Year's Eve will be another wet day along the West Coast, thanks to a continuing influx of Pacific moisture. Snow will fall in the higher elevations of the Sierras and Cascades. Meanwhile, Friday will be dry and mild in much of the Southeast and Plains. A weakening front will bring a few showers to the Northeast and mid-Atlantic states. The year 2005 will begin on a dry and warm note along the East Coast, where high temperatures will average 15-25 degrees above normal. Saturday will be wet again in the Pacific Northwest and northern California. Rain and snow showers will affect the northern Plains and Rockies.

Friday's Pacific Temperatures

| CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW |
|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Bangkok | 85/64 | London | 50/33 |
| Beijing | 28/18 | Kadana AB | 62/48 |
| Camp Casey | 25/5 | Kusan AB | 30/18 |
| Christchurch | 70/48 | Kwajalein | 87/79 |
| Diego Garcia | 87/78 | Manila | 83/73 |
| Hagatna | 85/75 | Misawa AB | 35/29 |
| Hanoi | 56/41 | Osan | 27/18 |
| Hong Kong | 53/41 | Perth | 86/67 |
| Honolulu | 82/75 | Pusan | 39/21 |

Friday's World Temperatures

| CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW |
|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|--------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Accapulco | 89/72 | Accapulco | 49/34 | Accapulco | 89/72 | Kabul | 41/11 |
| Athens | 54/42 | Sapporo | 26/15 | Buenos Aires | 90/70 | Kiev | 32/22 |
| Auckland | 68/49 | Seoul | 25/7 | Cairo | 79/59 | Kuwait | 74/55 |
| Baghdad | 73/53 | Shanghai | 34/19 | Cancun | 79/65 | London | 54/43 |
| Barbados | 87/70 | Singapore | 86/75 | Capo Town | 73/51 | Madrid | 55/42 |
| Barcelona | 55/44 | Sydney | 80/63 | Geneva | 42/38 | Mexico City | 70/41 |
| Berlin | 45/40 | Taegu | 34/16 | Istanbul | 46/37 | Montreal | 40/28 |
| Bermuda | 68/60 | Taipei | 50/38 | Jerusalem | 72/57 | Mogadishu | 89/71 |
| Brussels | 48/39 | Tokyo | 50/41 | Johannesburg | 85/61 | Moscow | 21/17 |
| | | | | | | Warsaw | 39/35 |



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SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Friday

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.-College football: ESPN College GameDay.
AFN-Sports, AFN radio Korea, 3 a.m.-College football: Continental Tire Bowl, Boston College vs. North Carolina. Chicago, N.C.
AFN-Sports, AFN radio Korea, 6:30 a.m.-College football: Emerald Radio Bowl, Navy vs. New Mexico at San Francisco.
AFN-Sports, AFN radio Korea, 10 a.m.-College football: Holiday Bowl, Texas Tech vs. Georgia at San Diego.
AFN-Atlantic, 10 a.m.-College basketball: Gonzaga at Missouri.
AFN-Sports, 10 a.m.-College football: Still-Combs Classic, North Carolina vs. Wake Forest at San Jose Calif.
AFN-Atlantic, 10 a.m.-College basketball: Gonzaga at Missouri (td).
AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.-College football: Holiday Bowl, Texas Tech vs. California at San Diego (td).

Saturday

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.-College football: ESPN College GameDay.
AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.-College football: Nashville Tents, Alabama vs. Minnesota at Nashville, Tenn.
AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.-College football: Still-Combs Classic, North Carolina vs. Wake Forest at San Jose, Calif.
AFN-Sports, AFN radio Oklahoma, 5:30 a.m.-College football: Still-Combs Classic, North Carolina vs. Wake Forest at San Jose, Calif.
AFN-Sports, AFN radio Oklahoma, 9 a.m.-College football: Peach Bowl, North Carolina vs. Florida at Atlanta.
AFN-Pacific/Korea, 10 a.m.-N.A.: Sacramento State vs. Philadelphia at Philadelphia.
AFN-Atlantic, 10 a.m.-N.A.: Philadelphia at Delaware.
AFN-Sports, 2 p.m.-College football: ESPN College GameDay.
AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.-NBA: Philadelphia at Detroit.
AFN-Sports, 9:30 p.m.-College football: ESPN College GameDay.

All Times Japan and Korea Standard Time; all indicies delivered from Asia. All times are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Pro football

NFL

| AMERICAN CONFERENCE | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|----|------|-----|-----|
| East | W | L | Pct | PF | PA |
| Buffalo | 13 | 0 | .607 | 413 | 253 |
| N.Y. Jets | 9 | 7 | .563 | 286 | 274 |
| Yankee | 9 | 6 | .600 | 391 | 295 |
| Baltimore | 8 | 8 | .500 | 325 | 325 |
| Pittsburgh | 8 | 8 | .500 | 325 | 325 |
| Cleveland | 3 | 10 | .231 | 229 | 420 |
| South | W | L | Pct | PF | PA |
| Indianapolis | 10 | 6 | .625 | 308 | 218 |
| Jacksonville | 8 | 7 | .533 | 286 | 274 |
| Tampa Bay | 8 | 7 | .533 | 286 | 274 |
| Tennessee | 8 | 7 | .533 | 286 | 274 |
| North | W | L | Pct | PF | PA |
| Pittsburgh | 14 | 0 | .875 | 327 | 193 |
| Atlanta | 11 | 5 | .688 | 327 | 193 |
| Cleveland | 3 | 10 | .231 | 229 | 420 |
| West | W | L | Pct | PF | PA |
| San Diego | 4 | 0 | .733 | 422 | 202 |
| Seattle | 4 | 0 | .667 | 389 | 199 |
| Kansas City | 7 | 8 | .463 | 414 | 361 |
| Oakland | 2 | 10 | .167 | 313 | 424 |

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

| East | W | L | Pct | PF | PA |
|---------------|----|---|------|-----|-----|
| Philadelphia | 13 | 0 | .607 | 329 | 177 |
| Dallas | 9 | 6 | .600 | 299 | 177 |
| N.Y. Giants | 9 | 7 | .563 | 329 | 177 |
| Washington | 10 | 0 | .333 | 247 | 247 |
| South | W | L | Pct | PF | PA |
| Atlanta | 11 | 4 | .733 | 314 | 199 |
| Kansas City | 7 | 8 | .463 | 314 | 199 |
| New Orleans | 7 | 8 | .463 | 314 | 199 |
| Tampa Bay | 7 | 8 | .463 | 314 | 199 |
| North | W | L | Pct | PF | PA |
| Green Bay | 8 | 6 | .600 | 323 | 367 |
| Minnesota | 8 | 7 | .533 | 387 | 301 |
| Chicago | 6 | 7 | .463 | 337 | 370 |
| West | W | L | Pct | PF | PA |
| Seattle | 2 | 0 | .533 | 343 | 247 |
| San Francisco | 2 | 0 | .533 | 343 | 247 |
| San Francisco | 2 | 0 | .533 | 343 | 247 |

Sunday's games

Chicago at Tennessee
 Dallas at Baltimore
 N.Y. Jets at Chicago
 Tampa Bay at Tennessee
 Minnesota at Washington
 Tennessee at New England
 New Orleans at Carolina
 Atlanta at New England
 Cincinnati at Philadelphia
 Atlanta at Seattle
 San Diego at Tampa Bay
 Indianapolis at Denver
 Seattle at Oakland
 Dallas at N.Y. Giants
 End Regular Season

College football

Bowl glance

| Game | TV | Time |
|----------------------|-------|-------|
| New Orleans Bowl | ESPN | 12:00 |
| Southern Miss. State | ESPN2 | 12:00 |
| Champs Sports Bowl | ESPN | 12:00 |
| Paycom Systems Bowl | ESPN2 | 12:00 |
| Georgia Tech | ESPN | 12:00 |
| Wake Forest | ESPN2 | 12:00 |
| GMAC Bowl | ESPN | 12:00 |
| Paycom Systems Bowl | ESPN2 | 12:00 |
| Bowling Green | ESPN | 12:00 |
| Memphis | ESPN2 | 12:00 |

Thursday, Dec. 23
Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl
 Cincinnati 27, Marshall 14
Las Vegas Bowl
 Wyoming 24, Nevada 20
Hawaii Bowl
 Hawaii 59, Utah 50
Monday, Dec. 27
Alamo Bowl
 Iowa State 27, Virginia 24
San Diego State
 Fresno State 27, Virginia 34
at Detroit
 Michigan 27, Toledo 10
at Connecticut
 Connecticut 39, Toledo 10
at North Carolina
 North Carolina 28, independence Bowl
at Wake Forest
 Wake Forest 14, Virginia 12
Paycom Systems Bowl
 Iowa State 27, Virginia 34
at Memphis
 Memphis 27, Oregon State 25
at Boise State
 Boise State 27, Oregon State 25
at Texas A&M
 Texas A&M 35, Oregon State 25
at San Antonio
 San Antonio 27, Oregon State 25
at Ohio State
 Ohio State 27, Oregon State 25
Continental Tire Bowl
 at North Carolina
 North Carolina 27, Oregon State 25

Friday, Dec. 24
Emerald Bowl
 at San Francisco
 San Francisco 27, Oregon State 25
at San Diego
 San Diego 27, Oregon State 25
at San Antonio
 San Antonio 27, Oregon State 25
at Ohio State
 Ohio State 27, Oregon State 25
at North Carolina
 North Carolina 27, Oregon State 25

Saturday, Dec. 25
at San Francisco
 San Francisco 27, Oregon State 25
at San Diego
 San Diego 27, Oregon State 25
at San Antonio
 San Antonio 27, Oregon State 25
at Ohio State
 Ohio State 27, Oregon State 25
at North Carolina
 North Carolina 27, Oregon State 25

Sunday, Dec. 26
at San Francisco
 San Francisco 27, Oregon State 25
at San Diego
 San Diego 27, Oregon State 25
at San Antonio
 San Antonio 27, Oregon State 25
at Ohio State
 Ohio State 27, Oregon State 25
at North Carolina
 North Carolina 27, Oregon State 25

Tuesday, Dec. 27
 6. Duke (8-0) did not play. Next vs. Georgia Tech.
 7. Kentucky (8-1) did not play. Next vs. Hofstra, Wednesday.
 8. Georgia Tech (9-1) beat Lafayette 92-58.
 9. North Carolina (9-1) did not play. Next vs. South Carolina, Wednesday.
 10. Pittsburgh (9-0) did not play. Next vs. Wake Forest, Wednesday.
 11. Connecticut (7-1) beat Sacred Heart 73-62.
 12. Georgia (10-1) beat No. 3 Oklahoma State 75-24.
 13. Washington (10-0) did not play. Next vs. Wake Forest, Wednesday.
 14. Arizona (9-2) beat Eastern Washington 70-67.
 15. Texas (8-2) did not play. Next vs. Texas Tech, Wednesday.
 16. Iowa (11-1) did not play. Next vs. Iowa State, Wednesday.
 17. North Carolina State (10-1) beat Columbia 44-28.
 18. Alabama (9-2) did not play. Next at Wake Forest, Wednesday.
 19. Louisville (9-1) did not play. Next vs. Eastern Kentucky, Wednesday.
 20. Georgia Washington (8-1) did not play. Next at West Virginia, Wednesday.
 21. Mississippi State (11-1) did not play. Next vs. Tennessee Tech, Wednesday.
 22. Cincinnati (10-0) did not play. Next vs. Louisiana State, Wednesday.
 23. North Carolina State (10-1) did not play. Next vs. North Carolina, Wednesday.
 24. Virginia (9-1) did not play. Next vs. Mount St. Mary's, Mal. Tuesday.
 25. Virginia (9-1) did not play. Next vs. No. 5 Wake Forest, Sunday.

Tuesday's men's scores

EAST
 Bucknell (9-0) defeated Cornell 62-56.
 Connecticut 73, Sacred Heart 57.
 Georgia 100, Savannah 74.
 Georgetown 78, Norfolk 55, 70, 70.
 Holy Cross 77, Boston College 55.
 Massachusetts 67, Cornell 65.
 Saint Joseph's 87, Holy Family 58.
 St. Francis, N.Y. 70, Colgate 53.
 St. John's 87, Johns Hopkins 74.
 Vermont 77, Siena 55.
SOUTH
 Columbus 59, Benedict College 64.
 Georgia 100, Savannah 74.
 Georgia Tech 92, Lafayette 56.
 Howard 100, Howard 100.
 Maryland 112, Liberty 68.
 Southern Miss. 75, Western Mass 75.
 New Orleans 62, VM 88.
 Southern Miss. 75, William Carey 46.
 Tampa Bay 83, Ambrose 75.
 UAB 100, Alabama A&M 74.
 W. Kentucky 87, Austin Peay 79.
MIDWEST
 Cedarville 100, Ohio Wesleyan 61.
 Eastern Michigan 82, Western Michigan 84.
 Creighton 71, Bradley 67.
 Eastern Michigan 82, Western Michigan 84.
 Indiana-Purdue, Ind. 64, Samford 50.
 Indiana State 75, Eastern Michigan 82.
 Indianapolis 104, Puerto Rico-Mayaguez 55.
 Iowa State 75, Indiana State 75.
 San Diego 59, San Diego 59.
WEST
 Michigan State 75, Michigan State 75.
 Mid-Am Nazareth 81, Siena Heights 75.
 Northern Iowa 75, Northern Iowa 75.
 Notre Dame 78, W. Illinois 61.
 Oregon State 75, Oregon State 75.
 Rutgers 78, Kansas 56.
 San Diego State 75, San Diego State 75.
 St. Mary's 82, St. Mary's 82.
 Wayne, Neb. 81, Dakota S. 56.
 Wyoming 81, UNK 68.
 Winona St. 81, South Dakota 70.
 Xavier 86, St. Mary's 74.
SOUTHWEST
 Baylor 84, Prairie View 74.
 Louisiana 74, Oklahoma 55, 75.
 Oklahoma 75, Oklahoma 75.
 Oklahoma Tech 75, Oklahoma Tech 75.
 Oral Roberts 118, Utah Valley 78.
 TCU 96, Grand Valley 78.

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 ranked

Tuesday
 1. Illinois (12-0) did not play. Next vs. Northwestern State, Wednesday.
 2. Oklahoma (8-0) did not play. Next vs. No. 9 Georgia Tech, Saturday.
 3. Oklahoma (8-0) did not play. Next vs. No. 9 Georgia Tech, Saturday.
 4. Michigan (10-1) lost to No. 12 Memphis 78-75. Next at Texas A&M, Wednesday.
 5. Memphis (10-1) beat North Carolina 78-75. Next vs. Cleveland State, Wednesday.
 6. Wake Forest (10-1) did not play. Next vs. North Carolina A&T, Thursday.

Charlotte, 86, Yale 74
Comcast Local Invitational
 New Mexico 101, MVU 58
First Round
Drury Invitational
 N.C. State 75, Wake Forest 58
Second Round
 St. John's 73, Canisius 51
Third Round
Florida Atlantic Invitational
 Fla. International 75, Florida Atlantic 51
Fourth Round
 Birmingham 75, Florida Atlantic 51
Fiesta Bowl Classic
 Florida Int'l 75, Washington 65
Richard Stone Invitational
 Florida Int'l 75, Washington 65
First Round
Alton Hills Invitational
 Florida Int'l 75, Washington 65
Second Round
 N. Illinois 71, St. Bonaventure 62
Third Round
 N. Illinois 71, St. Bonaventure 62
UCF Invitational
 St. John's 73, Canisius 51
UCF Invitational
 St. John's 73, Canisius 51
UCF Invitational
 St. John's 73, Canisius 51
UCF Invitational
 St. John's 73, Canisius 51

Tuesday's women's scores

EAST
 Bucknell (9-0) defeated Cornell 62-56.
 Connecticut 73, Sacred Heart 57.
 Georgia 100, Savannah 74.
 Georgetown 78, Norfolk 55, 70, 70.
 Holy Cross 77, Boston College 55.
 Massachusetts 67, Cornell 65.
 Saint Joseph's 87, Holy Family 58.
 St. Francis, N.Y. 70, Colgate 53.
 St. John's 87, Johns Hopkins 74.
 Vermont 77, Siena 55.
SOUTH
 Columbus 59, Benedict College 64.
 Georgia 100, Savannah 74.
 Georgia Tech 92, Lafayette 56.
 Howard 100, Howard 100.
 Maryland 112, Liberty 68.
 Southern Miss. 75, Western Mass 75.
 New Orleans 62, VM 88.
 Southern Miss. 75, William Carey 46.
 Tampa Bay 83, Ambrose 75.
 UAB 100, Alabama A&M 74.
 W. Kentucky 87, Austin Peay 79.
MIDWEST
 Cedarville 100, Ohio Wesleyan 61.
 Eastern Michigan 82, Western Michigan 84.
 Creighton 71, Bradley 67.
 Eastern Michigan 82, Western Michigan 84.
 Indiana-Purdue, Ind. 64, Samford 50.
 Indiana State 75, Eastern Michigan 82.
 Indianapolis 104, Puerto Rico-Mayaguez 55.
 Iowa State 75, Indiana State 75.
 San Diego 59, San Diego 59.
WEST
 Michigan State 75, Michigan State 75.
 Mid-Am Nazareth 81, Siena Heights 75.
 Northern Iowa 75, Northern Iowa 75.
 Notre Dame 78, W. Illinois 61.
 Oregon State 75, Oregon State 75.
 Rutgers 78, Kansas 56.
 San Diego State 75, San Diego State 75.
 St. Mary's 82, St. Mary's 82.
 Wayne, Neb. 81, Dakota S. 56.
 Wyoming 81, UNK 68.
 Winona St. 81, South Dakota 70.
 Xavier 86, St. Mary's 74.
SOUTHWEST
 Baylor 84, Prairie View 74.
 Louisiana 74, Oklahoma 55, 75.
 Oklahoma 75, Oklahoma 75.
 Oklahoma Tech 75, Oklahoma Tech 75.
 Oral Roberts 118, Utah Valley 78.
 TCU 96, Grand Valley 78.

AP Women's Top 25 ranked

1. LSU (10-0) did not play. Next vs. Texas Tech, Wednesday.
 2. Duke (11-1) did not play. Next vs. Rhode Island, Wednesday.
 3. Baylor (9-1) did not play. Next at Montana State, Wednesday.
 4. Texas (7-2) beat Sam Houston State 82-68.
 5. Stanford (9-1) did not play. Next at Oregon, Wednesday.
 6. Notre Dame (10-1) did not play. Next at Northern Illinois, Thursday.
 7. North Carolina (10-1) beat Lipscomb 81-65. Next vs. Old Dominion, Thursday.
 8. Ohio State (8-2) did not play. Next at Penn State, Thursday.
 9. Ohio State (8-2) did not play. Next at Penn State, Thursday.
 10. Michigan State (10-1) did not play. Next at New Orleans, Thursday.
 11. Connecticut (8-2) did not play. Next vs. Penn State, Thursday.
 12. Michigan State (10-1) did not play. Next at New Orleans, Thursday.
 13. Connecticut (8-2) did not play. Next vs. Penn State, Thursday.
 14. Michigan State (10-1) did not play. Next at New Orleans, Thursday.
 15. Iowa (11-1) did not play. Next vs. Alabama, Thursday.
 16. Iowa (11-1) did not play. Next vs. Alabama, Thursday.
 17. Iowa (11-1) did not play. Next vs. Alabama, Thursday.
 18. Iowa (11-1) did not play. Next vs. Alabama, Thursday.
 19. Iowa (11-1) did not play. Next vs. Alabama, Thursday.
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 Massachusetts 67, Cornell 65.
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 St. Francis, N.Y. 70, Colgate 53.
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 Vermont 77, Siena 55.
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 Georgia 100, Savannah 74.
 Georgia Tech 92, Lafayette 56.
 Howard 100, Howard 100.
 Maryland 112, Liberty 68.
 Southern Miss. 75, Western Mass 75.
 New Orleans 62, VM 88.
 Southern Miss. 75, William Carey 46.
 Tampa Bay 83, Ambrose 75.
 UAB 100, Alabama A&M 74.
 W. Kentucky 87, Austin Peay 79.
MIDWEST
 Cedarville 100, Ohio Wesleyan 61.
 Eastern Michigan 82, Western Michigan 84.
 Creighton 71, Bradley 67.
 Eastern Michigan 82, Western Michigan 84.
 Indiana-Purdue, Ind. 64, Samford 50.
 Indiana State 75, Eastern Michigan 82.
 Indianapolis 104, Puerto Rico-Mayaguez 55.
 Iowa State 75, Indiana State 75.
 San Diego 59, San Diego 59.
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 Northern Iowa 75, Northern Iowa 75.
 Notre Dame 78, W. Illinois 61.
 Oregon State 75, Oregon State 75.
 Rutgers 78, Kansas 56.
 San Diego State 75, San Diego State 75.
 St. Mary's 82, St. Mary's 82.
 Wayne, Neb. 81, Dakota S. 56.
 Wyoming 81, UNK 68.
 Winona St. 81, South Dakota 70.
 Xavier 86, St. Mary's 74.
SOUTHWEST
 Baylor 84, Prairie View 74.
 Louisiana 74, Oklahoma 55, 75.
 Oklahoma 75, Oklahoma 75.
 Oklahoma Tech 75, Oklahoma Tech 75.
 Oral Roberts 118, Utah Valley 78.
 TCU 96, Grand Valley 78.

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 Mid-Am Nazareth 81, Siena Heights 75.
 Northern Iowa 75, Northern Iowa 75.
 Notre Dame 78, W. Illinois 61.
 Oregon State 75, Oregon State 75.
 Rutgers 78, Kansas 56.
 San Diego State 75, San Diego State 75.
 St. Mary's 82, St. Mary's 82.
 Wayne, Neb. 81, Dakota S. 56.
 Wyoming 81, UNK 68.
 Winona St. 81, South Dakota 70.
 Xavier 86, St. Mary's 74.
SOUTHWEST
 Baylor 84, Prairie View 74.
 Louisiana 74, Oklahoma 55, 75.
 Oklahoma 75, Oklahoma 75.
 Oklahoma Tech 75, Oklahoma Tech 75.
 Oral Roberts 118, Utah Valley 78.
 TCU 96, Grand Valley 78.

Tuesday's women's scores

EAST
 Bucknell (9-0) defeated Cornell 62-56.
 Connecticut 73, Sacred Heart 57.
 Georgia 100, Savannah 74.
 Georgetown 78, Norfolk 55, 70, 70.
 Holy Cross 77, Boston College 55.
 Massachusetts 67, Cornell 65.
 Saint Joseph's 87, Holy Family 58.
 St. Francis, N.Y. 70, Colgate 53.
 St. John's 87, Johns Hopkins 74.
 Vermont 77, Siena 55.
SOUTH
 Columbus 59, Benedict College 64.
 Georgia 100, Savannah 74.
 Georgia Tech 92, Lafayette 56.
 Howard 100, Howard 100.
 Maryland 112, Liberty 68.
 Southern Miss. 75, Western Mass 75.
 New Orleans 62, VM 88.
 Southern Miss. 75, William Carey 46.
 Tampa Bay 83, Ambrose 75.
 UAB 100, Alabama A&M 74.
 W. Kentucky 87, Austin Peay 79.
MIDWEST
 Cedarville 100, Ohio Wesleyan 61.
 Eastern Michigan 82, Western Michigan 84.
 Creighton 71, Bradley 67.
 Eastern Michigan 82, Western Michigan 84.
 Indiana-Purdue, Ind. 64, Samford 50.
 Indiana State 75, Eastern Michigan 82.
 Indianapolis 104, Puerto Rico-Mayaguez 55.
 Iowa State 75, Indiana State 75.
 San Diego 59, San Diego 59.
WEST
 Michigan State 75, Michigan

Texas out to make statement in Rose Bowl

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

Bowl games often define a team's season.

A victory over a quality opponent to close the season can validate a successful year. Finishing off with a loss in a high-profile matchup can tarnish all that was accomplished to get there.

Several teams playing on the first few days of 2005 have much to prove, but none more than Texas.

The Longhorns meet Big Ten co-champion Michigan on Jan. 1 in the Rose Bowl. Rarely has a 10-win team received so much grief for earning a major bowl bid.

When the Longhorns slipped into the Bowl Championship Series ahead of California, they became this year's BCS villain. It wasn't necessarily fair, but Texas coach Mack Brown brought much of the criticism on himself by pleading for his team so publicly.

So the Longhorns either can quiet the critics and justify their first BCS bid with a victory, or lose and be dismissed as unworthy of the lofty status.

Brown doesn't believe his lobbying has put any extra burden on the Longhorns.

"Not at all, our team's the fourth-best team in the country based on a combination of things, and I told them I didn't do anything, they deserved it, and they got in because they deserved it," Brown said. "All I did was ask people to look. Really and truly, I feel like we should have been one of the last four years, and I wish it would have made people more aware than, too."

Texas isn't alone in playing for its reputation.

Wisconsin followed victories in its first nine games with two ugly, lopsided losses.

The Badgers play Georgia in the Outback Bowl on Jan. 1, trying to avoid a three-game losing streak that will make a once-promising season seem like a huge



RB Cedric Benson, left, has rushed for 1,764 yards and 19 touchdowns this season for Texas, which is a much-maligned 10-1 team heading into the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1.

disappointment.

Pittsburgh and West Virginia will be looking to repair the tattered image of the Big East.

The Panthers play Utah in the Fiesta Bowl. The unbeaten Utes are the first team from a non-BCS conference to reach one of the four big-money bowl games, but it's Pitt that comes in as more than a two-touchdown underdog.

"All I can say is, the Big East is a very

competitive conference," said outgoing Pitt coach Walt Harris, who is headed to Stanford.

West Virginia plays Florida State in the Gator Bowl, also trying to snap a two-game losing streak. The Mountaineers entered the season ranked in the top 10 and heavily favored to win the watered-down Big East. Instead, they lost to Boston College and Pitt and had to share the league crown.

The Seminoles (8-3), meanwhile, are

coming off a loss and trying to avoid their third season in four years with at least four losses.

And of course, Auburn will try to complete a perfect season in the Sugar Bowl against Virginia Tech, and give voters in the AP poll an alternative No. 1 to the winner of the Orange Bowl between Southern California and Oklahoma.

"We feel like national champs no matter what the polls say," Auburn All-American cornerback Carlos Rogers said. "They can't take that away. We don't have to have the recognition from the polls."

The picks:

Saturday, Jan. 1

Cotton Bowl

Tennessee (plus 3) vs. Texas A&M: Vols have lost past two bowl games by combined 57-17. **TENNESSEE 33-28.**

Outback Bowl

Wisconsin (plus 7) vs. Georgia: Bulldogs go for third straight double-digit win season ... **GEORGIA 20-14.**

Gator Bowl

Florida State (minus 8) vs. West Virginia: Rematch of 1982 Gator Bowl, won 31-12 by Nokes ... **FLORIDA STATE 24-10.**

Capital One Bowl

Iowa (plus 6½) vs. LSU: Nick Saban's last game as LSU coach ... **LSU 20-17.**

Rose Bowl

Michigan (plus 6) vs. Texas: Wolverines' last Rose Bowl victory was 1998 ... **MICHIGAN 23-17.**

Fiesta Bowl

Utah (minus 16½) vs. Pittsburgh: Both coaches have new jobs waiting for them ... **UTAH 48-28.**

Monday, Jan. 3

Sugar Bowl

Auburn (plus 6½) vs. Virginia Tech: Tigers do all they can against tough Hokies ... **AUBURN 28-13.**

Tuesday, Jan. 4

Orange Bowl

Southern California (minus 3) vs. Oklahoma: But Trojans look even better against Sooners ... **USC 34-21.**

Edwards stakes his claim as Michigan's best receiver

BY LARRY LAGE

The Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — When Braylon Edwards won the Biletnikoff Award as the nation's best receiver, the senior was asked if he thought he was Michigan's best receiver ever.

Edwards said he was.

It's hard to argue with him, though it's difficult to compare him with Anthony Carter, because he played more than 20 years ago when Bo Schembechler rarely chose to pass.

Edwards, the first Wolverine to win the Biletnikoff Award, set season school records with 87 receptions for 1,221 yards receiving this year.

With 12 receiving touchdowns for Michigan, his career total of 36 trails Carter's Big Ten record by one. Edwards already has broken Carter's school marks with 242 catches and 3,432 yards receiving.

He also owns Michigan records with three receptions in 37 straight games, an active streak heading into the Rose Bowl against Texas, and 16 100-yard re-

ceiving games. And, he's the first Big Ten player with three 1,000-yard receiving seasons.

"I think my legacy is pretty much complete," Edwards said. "I think I've done everything I wanted to do, and we've accomplished everything as a team. The one thing now is to win the Rose Bowl. That would be the finishing touch."

Edwards is blessed with a 6-foot-3, 206-pound body, sprinter's speed and the ability to out-jump defensive backs for the football — or rip it away from them with brute strength.

"He just goes over defenders and grabs touchdowns," Texas safety Phillip Geiggar said. "It looks like a lot of people had him in single coverage. I don't think you can do that."

Michigan State found that out this season.

Edwards caught two TD passes late in the fourth quarter to help Michigan erase a 17-point deficit in just 5:44, and grabbed a third TD in triple overtime to beat the Spartans.

The Longhorns held Oklahoma's Mark Clayton, the best receiver they faced, to just three receptions for 19 yards this season.

"I think Texas definitely has the ability to match us and play good ball," Edwards said. "It's going to be a good one."

Texas assistant coach Greg Robinson said he will be tough to slow down Edwards because he already looks and plays like a professional receiver.

"He'll walk in the NFL and help somebody right away," Robinson said.

Edwards butted heads with Michigan coach Lloyd Carr in the past because of his loquacious ways, occasional tardiness and a cell phone that rang during a team meeting when he was a freshman, a mistake that still bothers Edwards.

But Carr and Edwards got along just fine this season, and the coach didn't hesitate to praise his star receiver.

"Braylon certainly has had a great career," Carr said.

"I'm extremely proud of what he's done this season and the leadership that he's given our team and the example that he's set on the field. He's certainly one of the great football players we've had at Michigan. I don't think there's any doubt about that."



Michigan senior wide receiver Braylon Edwards, who won the Biletnikoff Award as the nation's best receiver, set school records with 87 receptions and 1,221 yards this season.

Bowls scoreboard

Tuesday
Iowa St. 17, Miami (Ohio) 13
Miami 17
Iowa St. 13

First Quarter
 15—Hicks 4 run (Culbertson kick), 4:04.
Second
 15—FG Culbertson 23, 10:55.
 MU—Clemens 28 pass from Betts (Parsopoulou kick), 25.

Third Quarter
 MU—Smith 7 run (2nd field), 8:12.
Fourth Quarter
 15—Kock 1 run (Culbertson kick), 13:02.
 4—Kloman.

Final Score
 MU 18
 28
 25
 10
 20-44-11, 106-28-2
 Rushing—Yard 2-10
 Passing—Yard 2-20
 Punting—Yard 4-22
 Penalties—Lost 1-0
 Fumbles—Lost 1-0
 Time of Possession—MU 30:33
 IU 29:27

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Miami: Smith 9-46, Clemens 6-22, Miller 1-10, Betts 1-10, Iowa St.: Hicks 27-159, Meyer 23-112, Kock 3-7, Byrthe 1-6, Davis 1-4, Coleman 1-2, Smith 2-2 (minus 6).

Passing—Miami: Betts 20-44-1-240, Iowa St.: Meyer 23-112-1-14.
Receiving—Miami: Robinson 7-101, Corbin 2-40, Larkin 2-18, Kirkpatrick 2-17, Busing 2-10, Smith 2-4, Coleman 1-28, Tyler 1-4, Williams 1-2, Iowa St.: Byrthe 3-42, Davis 3-30, Williams 2-23, Miller 1-5.

Oregon St. 38, Notre Dame 21
Oregon St. 38
Notre Dame 21

First Quarter
 OSU—Gillett 12 pass Anderson (Serna kick), 12:17.
 OSU—Newton 11 pass from Anderson (Serna kick), 5:41.

Second Quarter
 OSU—Haines 1 pass from Anderson (Serna kick), 7:45.
 ND—Falaris 11 pass from Quinn (Fitzpatrick kick), 9:56.

Third Quarter
 ND—Walker 5 run (Fitzpatrick kick), 2:40.
 OSU—Newton 11 pass from Anderson (Serna kick), 12:17.
 ND—McKnight 18 pass from Quinn (Fitzpatrick kick), 8:52.
 OSU—Newton 2 run (Serna kick), 3:15.

Final Score
 OSU 38
 ND 20
 18-33-1, 28-47-8
 Rushing—Yard 18-33
 Passing—Yard 11-21
 Punting—Yard 4-19
 Penalties—Lost 1-0
 Fumbles—Lost 1-0
 Time of Possession—OSU 35:45
 ND 30:15

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Oregon: Walker 5-43, Grant 1-15, Quinn 2-10, Wilson 1-6, Angelisio 1-4, Taylor 1-10 (minus 1), Anderson 5 (minus 6).
Passing—Oregon: Quinn 11-22-1-140, Oregon St.: Anderson 28-45-5-358.

Receiving—Oregon: Palmer 5-100, McKnight 4-50, Wilson 3-13, Walker 1-13, Taylor 1-10, Palmer 1-10, Anderson 1-10, Palmer 1-10, 2-10, Schmidt 1-1, Shelton 1 (minus 4), Healey 1-10, Newton 1-10, Gillett 2-10, Love 4-31, Haines 3-25, Bernard 2-15, Wright 2-15, Hawkins 1-9.

Anderson lifts Oregon St. over Notre Dame

QB throws 4 TDs in Insight victory; Irish lose seventh straight bowl

By BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Derek Anderson enhanced his future with a big final game for Oregon State — against a Notre Dame team whose epilogue to the Willingham era was just another loss.

Anderson threw for 358 yards and tied an Insight Bowl record with four touchdown passes Tuesday night in the Beavers' 38-21 victory over the Irish.

The senior quarterback completed 28 of 45 passes with no interceptions in a game that should help his prospects in the NFL Draft, Anderson said. He would take the next term off to stay in Arizona and hone his skills.

He plans to play in the Senior Bowl.

"Then we'll see where football takes me from here," he said. "Hopefully, I can continue my career."

The Beavers' 7-5 was six of their last seven, largely because Anderson overcame his reputation for throwing interceptions about as often as he threw for touchdowns.

"If you look at us over the last six or seven weeks, it was just a great, great job of quarterbacking," Oregon State coach Mike Riley said. "I think Derek probably made a lot of money in the last few weeks."

Anderson moved ahead of Steve Stenstrom to No. 2 on the Pac-10 career list, with 11,249 yards passing. Only Carson Palmer (11,818) had more.

The Irish (6-6) spoke repeatedly about winning the game for William Hamm, firing the start of the regular season. But Sammie



Oregon State quarterback Derek Anderson was 28-for-45 for 358 yards and four touchdowns in the Beavers' 38-21 victory over Notre Dame in the Insight Bowl on Tuesday night in Phoenix.

Strouther's 52-yard punt return and Derrick Doggett's blocked punt helped Oregon State to an early 21-0 lead.

"The short field position the first half just killed us," Notre Dame interim coach Kent Baer said. "The blocked punt and the punt return, you take that away, and it's a much closer game — but that's all part of it."

Brady Quinn threw two touchdown passes as Notre Dame twice cut the lead to 10 points, the last on an 18-yard throw to Rhema McKnight that made it 31-21 with 4:52 left.

son-ending losses, allowing 14 TD passes against Pittsburgh, Southern California and Oregon State.

The Beavers had TD drives of only 26, 4 and 45 yards take their early lead, then went 90 yards in 12 plays midway through the second half after Notre Dame had cut the lead to 24-14. Anderson's 1-yard TD toss to Newton capped the long drive, and it was 31-14 with 12:17 to play.

"That was a big drive," Anderson said. "We were talking on the sidelines and said, 'Let's go answer it.'"

With Willingham ousted, and hired as head coach at Washington, the Irish played under Baer, Notre Dame's defensive coordinator.

New Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis, offensive coordinator for the New England Patriots, takes over the Irish program when his NFL season ends.

"I'd be lying if I told you it didn't affect some people," Quinn said. "You try your best, at least as much as you can, and try not to look too far ahead or too far back."

"I think this team dealt with this situation that we were given as good as any team could."

Baer, who might join Willingham at Washington, said it had been an emotional month for the coaches and the players.

"I think there is a definite bond that has been created over this," he said. "That's a great group of young men in there. I'm very proud of how they played, and I can't say enough about them."

The capacity crowd of 45,917 was the largest since the Insight Bowl moved to Bank One Ballpark six years ago. The roof was open at kickoff, but was closed in the first quarter as a light rain fell.

Iowa State surge continues with win over Miami (Ohio) in Independence

By CHUCK SCORPNER

The Associated Press

SHREVEPORT, La. — Steve Hicks burst through holes he had never seen before. Bret Meyer darted and weaved and completed just enough passes to keep the defense honest.

Sometime between the end of the regular season and Tuesday night's Independence Bowl, Iowa State rediscovered its running game.

The Cyclones pounded the ball at Miami of Ohio all night in a 17-13 victory that capped an impressive turnaround — from 2-10 in 2003 to 7-5, a share of the Big 12 North title and a bowl championship this year.

"Our goal at the beginning of the year was to be one of the most improved teams in the country," Iowa State coach Dan McCarney said.

"You have to credit that to our kids for not being denied."

They certainly weren't on this night, when Miami came up short in its bid to send coach Terry Hoepner out with a victory.

Hoepner is leaving to become the coach at Indiana, a job he accepted Dec. 17.

"That was as good a football as we have played all year, especially in their defense," said Hoepner, whose team lost to Michigan in the second week of the season. "I'm glad I won't see them next year."

Those teams that do play Iowa State can expect to see plenty of Hicks and Meyer.

Hicks, a sophomore, ran 27 times for 159 yards and scored the game's first touchdown on a 4-yard run. Meyer, a freshman, carried a season-high 23 times for 122 yards, set up the go-ahead touchdown with a weaving 23-yard run in the fourth quarter and passed for 114 yards, completing 10 of 28. He was chosen as the game's offensive MVP.

When it was over, the Cyclones had rushed for 295 yards, a school record for a bowl game. They had averaged just 128 yards a game during the season.

"For this game, we put in a cou-

ple of new plays that we saw on film would work," Hicks said. "The offensive line was coming off the ball real well. These are some of the biggest holes I've seen all season. It was just a great job by them."

Hicks ran his season total to 1,062 yards, the eighth time in McCarney's 10 seasons a back has topped 1,000.

"If you look back at the tradition of all the great running backs that have come out of Iowa State ... just to get back to the old ways of what Iowa State rushing used to do, it's great," center Luke Vander Sanden said.

With ESPN's cameras recording the moment, Miami athletic director Brad Bates told the team just before the game that offensive coordinator Shane Montgomery would succeed Hoepner as coach.

If the timing of that announcement was meant to inspire the RedHawks (8-5), it didn't do so right away. Miami fell behind 10-0 before rallying to a 13-10 lead in the third quarter.



Iowa State QB Bret Meyer (7) celebrates with teammate Andy Kohler following their 17-13 victory over Miami of Ohio in the Independence Bowl, in Shreveport, La., on Tuesday. Meyer was the offensive MVP.



Gonzaga's J.P. Batista blocks a shot by Oklahoma State's Joe Graham during No. 12 Gonzaga's 78-75 victory on Tuesday in Oklahoma City.

Giant-killing Gonzaga strikes, toppling No. 3 Oklahoma State

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Gonzaga Bulldogs are back in the business of pulling off upsets.

Even with their leading scorer hampered by an ankle injury, the No. 12 Bulldogs beat third-ranked Oklahoma State 78-75 on Tuesday night.

Adam Morrison scored 19 points and J.P. Batista came off the bench for a career-high 18 points as the Bulldogs built a big lead and held off the charging Cowboys down the stretch.

It's the second time this season — and third in 13 months — that Gonzaga upset a team ranked in the Top 3. The team that came out of nowhere to make back-to-back Sweet 16 runs is now showing its might in the regular season.

And this time, the Bulldogs did it with a backup center pushing their offense. Batista, who had never scored more than 10 points in a game, shot 8-for-9 from the

AP Men's Top 25

floor to anchor a commanding inside attack. Gonzaga shot 57 percent for the game.

The Bulldogs are 2-1 against Top 5 teams this season. Gonzaga beat then-No. 3 Georgia Tech 88-73 on Dec. 18 and lost to No. 1 Illinois 89-72 on Nov. 27. The Bulldogs beat No. 3 Missouri 87-80 in overtime on Dec. 13, 2003.

Batista, a junior college transfer, was pushed into a bigger role when leading scorer Rommy Turiaf was slowed by an ankle injury and got into foul trouble.

"I knew that Rommy was kind of doubtful for tonight and I had to prepare myself mentally step up at the right times," Batista said.

Gonzaga coach Mark Few said Turiaf's ankle was at about half-strength and he was only using the senior to fill minutes. Turiaf, who averaged 20 points in Gonzaga's first 10 games, had 10 points in 18 minutes while others adjusted for his absence.

"I think our guys buy into their roles," Few said. "They understand their roles and they bring what they can bring."

Errol Knight and Sean Mallon each added 11 points for the Bulldogs, who led by 16 early in the second half, but needed a strong finish to hold off the charging Cowboys.

Oklahoma State (9-1) pushed its way back into it with a 21-8 run that John Lucas III capped with a three-pointer from the left corner to make it 65-62 with 9:11 minutes to play. After a 9-2 run by Gonzaga, the Cowboys drew to within a point twice but couldn't take the lead.

"They're just so tough," Few said. "That, more than anything, is what I'm most proud of — we matched their toughness to theirs."

No. 4 North Carolina 96, N.C. Wilmington 75: At Chapel Hill, N.C., Jawad Williams scored a season-high 25 points and Sean May added 16 as the Tar Heels had no problems after a week-long layoff.

North Carolina made its first seven shots — including four three-pointers — and led 19-3 after 5½ minutes. Raymond Felton finished with 12 points and 10 assists as the Tar Heels (10-1) won their 10th straight.

Ed Spencer had 19 points for N.C.-Wilmington (5-4), which played without leading scorer

John Goldsberry. He injured his right shoulder in the previous game.

No. 7 Syracuse 72, Albany 55: At Syracuse, N.Y., Hakim Warrick had 22 points and 14 rebounds and Benjamen Nicholas returned to the lineup with 10 points to lead the Orange (12-1) after missing three games with a sore back.

Nichols had seven points in a 56-second span to give the Orange a 20-point lead over Albany (4-5).

No. 9 Georgia Tech 92, Lafayette 58: At Atlanta, freshman Anthony Morrow scored a career-high 20 points, including 11 in a late 27-3 surge by Georgia Tech (9-1).

Georgia Tech was leading Lafayette (3-7) 55-47 when Isma'il Muhammad dunked to begin the big spurt with 10:55 left.

No. 11 Connecticut 73, Sacred Heart 55: At Hartford, Conn., Josh Boone scored 16 second-half points and finished with 20 points and 10 rebounds to help Connecticut (7-1) rally after trailing by three at halftime.

Luke Granato led the Pioneers (1-8) with 19 points, but had only five in the second half.

No. 14 Arizona 79, E. Washington 48: At Tucson, Ariz., Anthony Frye had 16 points as Arizona advanced to the championship game of the Fiesta Bowl Classic.

The Wildcats (9-2) will play Richmond, a winner over Butler, for the title Thursday night. Arizona is 38-1 in its holiday tournament.

Paul Butorac led Eastern Washington (2-9) with 11 points.

No. 16 Iowa 73, Air Force 63: At Iowa City, Iowa, Pierre Pierce scored 19 points to lead the Hawkeyes. Trailing 61-37, Air Force went on an 15-1 run to pull within 10 late in the second half, but Iowa (11-1) made nine of 10 free throws in the last two minutes to hold on.

Jacob Butschli led Air Force (6-5) with 19 points, including five three-pointers.

No. 17 North Carolina St. 84, Columbia 74: At New York, Conn. Bennerman had a career-high 24 points and picked up the slack for foul-plagued Julius Hodge, leading North Carolina State (10-1) to a 73-59 lead with 4:17 to play. Hodge scored 22 points despite missing considerable time in the second half.

Jeremiah Boswell scored a career-high 23 points for the Lions (6-3), who were leading 52-50 at one point in the second half.

No. 24 Maryland 112, Liberty 68: At College Park, Md., John Gilchrist scored a season-high 29 points and Nik Caner-Medley had 20 to lead Maryland to its fourth straight victory.

Ekene Ibekwe had 12 rebounds, and freshman James Gist scored 14 points for the Terrans (8-2). Larry Blair scored 30 points Liberty (1-8), which has lost five straight.

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Bailey's big test features meeting with Manning

BY EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

DENVER — A humiliating loss to Indianapolis in the playoffs last season made it clear the Denver Broncos had to change something.

That change is wearing No. 24 this season, and his name is Champ Bailey.

On Sunday, the Broncos play the Colts again in a game they need to win to make it back to the playoffs. It may also serve as the definitive test on whether Denver really got what it needed when it traded star tailback Clinton Portis for the shutdown cornerback.

"I wasn't here last year, and what happened last year doesn't concern me," said Bailey, who has consistently shirked discussion of who won and lost in the trade. "All I know is what we've got ahead of us. All I can worry about is what we've got to do to win this week."

Bailey's impact has been largely debated in Denver and around the league this season.

He has three interceptions — not a high number for a cornerback — and the Broncos pass defense has stayed steady, ranked sixth in the league this year and last.

But almost everyone agrees statisticians don't tell the entire story with a cornerback, especially a "shutdown" corner like Bailey, who doesn't get the ball thrown his way as much as most corners.

Bailey made his fifth straight Pro Bowl and started every game.

He was most visible when he got beat, and that happened on more than a few occasions — by Cincinnati's Chad Johnson, by Oakland's Jerry Porter, and by Kansas City's Ed Reed.

For the most part, though, he has done his job, limiting quarterbacks' choices by shutting off one side of the field. He has also been an exceptional run defender, something many top corners aren't known for.

"Obviously, Champ Bailey is a guy who can cover any number of guys," Colts quarterback Peyton Manning said. "He can play in the slot. He follows the best receivers."

Meanwhile, Portis has run for 1,315 yards and five touchdowns for Washington. The Broncos have found adequate replacements in Reuben Droughns and Tatum Bell, who was selected with the second-round draft pick the Broncos also received in the trade.

But Denver has struggled on third-and-short situations this season and ranks 30th in the league in scoring touchdowns inside the opponent's 20-yard line. Portis ran for 14 scores last year, and some wonder if his absence has hurt Denver's efficiency.

The bottom line is no losses and no touchdowns. The Broncos are 9-6. A win over Indianapolis would give them 10



AP

Denver's Champ Bailey (24), defending San Diego's Eric Parker, has three interceptions this season but has been an effective shutdown cornerback. Bailey and a second-round draft pick were traded to Denver in the offseason for running back Clinton Portis.

wins — matching last year's total — and a first-round playoff game on the road, just like last year.

The Broncos finished with the fourth-ranked defense last season, but the good numbers didn't hide the flaws, most of which came to the surface in the 41-10 playoff loss at Indianapolis.

Manning threw for 377 yards and five touchdowns. The most embarrassing moment came early, when Al Wilson, Kenoy Kennedy, Kelly Herndon and Lenny Wallach watched Marvin Harrison make a catch and fall to the ground, but never touched him. Harrison stood up and ran for a touchdown and a 14-3 lead.

"We weren't up for that game. I don't know why," Kennedy said. "We didn't play well in that last game and it was worse because it was the playoffs."

Since the Colts have clinched the third seed in the AFC and Manning threw his 49th touchdown last week to set the NFL record, Indy coach Tony Dungy has already decided Manning and the starters won't play the entire game Sunday.

If the Broncos win, they could travel to Indy for a rematch next week in the first round of the playoffs. One way or another, it seems Bailey is destined to get his chance against Manning.

Case: Defense, kicking game favor Pats

CASE, FROM BACK PAGE

it's Deion Branch, or David Givens, or one of the tight ends.

"It doesn't really matter who it is in there, I have confidence in all of them," Brady says. "They're all playmakers."

■ So is Brady, who never will pile up the kind of numbers Peyton Manning or Danne Culpepper have this year. But he wins and wins and wins with poise, intelligence and resourcefulness.

Brady reads defenses as well as any quarterback in the league. If an opponent doesn't get pressure on him, he becomes a surgeon.

■ The defense devised by coach Bill Belichick is complex, and it keeps evolving. Yet the players have such a strong grasp of it that they rarely make mistakes. All the while they are

befuddling opponents the way they did last quarterback Chad Pennington last Sunday.

The key defenders are linebackers Mike Vrabel, Tedy Bruschi and Ted Johnson, and line-men Seymour and Willie McGinest. Their versatility and command of the intricate schemes allow Belichick/Crennel to spring surprises on offenses.

■ Adam Vinatieri doesn't miss big kicks. He's having an other superb season and with two Super Bowl-winning kicks in his résumé, does anyone think he won't come through when needed?

What the Patriots have achieved this year is just as impressive as their accomplishments in 2001 or 2003 because of the epidemic of injuries and a difficult schedule.

The road to Jacksonville for

the Super Bowl will be exceptional. It will be difficult because the four best teams in the league are in the AFC now that Eagles receiver Terrell Owens is sidelined. New England might have to beat Manning and the high-powered Colts and then the rugged Steelers just to get to the Super Bowl. Or the very worthy Chargers could sneak into the AFC championship game.

But New England has frustrated Manning and the Colts in their past two meetings, both in Foxboro, where the next one would occur.

And a trip to Pittsburgh in the AFC title game was the route they took in 2001. "You play with what you've got," Brady said, "and teams that deal with it and come through are the best teams."

Until proven otherwise, that's the Patriots.

NFL statistics

AFC Individual leaders

Week 15 Quarterbacks

| Player | Att | Com | Yds | TD | Int |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|------|----|-----|
| Manning, Ind. | 492 | 313 | 4201 | 27 | 8 |
| Brees, S.D. | 400 | 263 | 3159 | 27 | 7 |
| Brees, K.C. | 355 | 218 | 2616 | 26 | 10 |
| Rieth/Risbergler, PIT | 295 | 196 | 2421 | 17 | 11 |
| Pennington, NYJ | 233 | 149 | 2023 | 16 | 10 |
| Brady, N.E. | 196 | 126 | 1667 | 11 | 4 |
| Clark, Tenn. | 320 | 201 | 2311 | 10 | 10 |
| Vick, Minn. | 441 | 278 | 3715 | 15 | 10 |
| Carr, Hou. | 442 | 271 | 3425 | 14 | 10 |
| Porter, Den. | 491 | 288 | 3981 | 19 | 10 |

Rushers

| Player | Att | Yds | LG | TD |
|-----------------|-----|------|----|----|
| James, Ind. | 333 | 1550 | 47 | 20 |
| Marsh, NYJ | 344 | 1547 | 29 | 12 |
| Dillon, N.E. | 331 | 1519 | 45 | 11 |
| Wright, Minn. | 333 | 1493 | 54 | 11 |
| Tomlinson, S.D. | 339 | 1335 | 49 | 12 |
| Taylor, Jac. | 300 | 1224 | 47 | 14 |
| Droughns, Den. | 296 | 1164 | 45 | 5 |
| Davis, Hou. | 288 | 1177 | 44 | 6 |
| Brown, Ten. | 220 | 1057 | 49 | 5 |
| McGhee, Buff. | 260 | 1049 | 39 | 4 |

Receivers

| Player | Att | Yds | LG | TD |
|-----------------|-----|------|-----|----|
| Smith, Ind. | 90 | 1207 | 134 | 9 |
| C Johnson, Cin. | 90 | 1207 | 134 | 9 |
| Gonzales, K.C. | 84 | 1006 | 120 | 49 |
| Harrison, Ind. | 81 | 1080 | 133 | 14 |
| Graves, S.D. | 81 | 964 | 115 | 72 |
| Bennett, Den. | 78 | 993 | 127 | 58 |
| Ward, Pitt. | 74 | 993 | 127 | 58 |
| Johnson, Hou. | 74 | 1120 | 151 | 44 |
| Wayne, Ind. | 74 | 1120 | 151 | 44 |

Punters

| Player | Att | Yds | LG | TD |
|----------------|-----|------|----|------|
| Scifres, Oak. | 67 | 2717 | 67 | 43.7 |
| Smith, Ind. | 65 | 2619 | 60 | 47.3 |
| Leffler, S.D. | 61 | 2501 | 60 | 43.6 |
| Normann, Buff. | 67 | 2679 | 64 | 43.0 |
| Henrich, Jac. | 64 | 2741 | 67 | 42.8 |
| Henson, Tex. | 77 | 2787 | 69 | 42.7 |
| Miller, N.E. | 76 | 2637 | 66 | 42.2 |
| Larson, Cin. | 67 | 2915 | 67 | 42.2 |
| Turk, Mia. | 67 | 2915 | 67 | 42.2 |

Punt Returners

| Player | Att | Yds | LG | TD |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Northcutt, Cle. | 40 | 436 | 101 | 0 |
| Walker, S.D.-Mia. | 40 | 436 | 101 | 0 |
| Wright, Minn. | 23 | 231 | 66 | 0 |
| Smith, Bal. | 53 | 542 | 102 | 78 |
| Ward, Pitt. | 49 | 412 | 97 | 0 |
| Lewis, Jac. | 23 | 227 | 95 | 50 |
| Wright, Minn. | 25 | 229 | 92 | 32 |
| Parker, S.D. | 25 | 229 | 92 | 32 |
| Moss, NYJ | 27 | 275 | 83 | 46 |

Kickers

| Player | Att | Yds | LG | TD |
|-------------------|-----|------|----|----|
| McGee, Buff. | 63 | 1633 | 29 | 97 |
| Hall, K.C. | 21 | 527 | 25 | 41 |
| White, Pitt. | 21 | 527 | 25 | 41 |
| Wright, Minn. | 50 | 1222 | 24 | 87 |
| Dundee, N.E. | 49 | 1222 | 24 | 87 |
| McAfee, Ten. | 34 | 769 | 22 | 45 |
| Wright, Minn. | 34 | 769 | 22 | 45 |
| Walker, S.D.-Mia. | 34 | 769 | 22 | 45 |
| Moss, Hou. | 14 | 322 | 49 | 0 |

Scoring Touchdowns

| Player | TD | Touch | Ret | Pts |
|-----------------|----|-------|-----|-----|
| Tomlinson, S.D. | 15 | 14 | 1 | 90 |
| Holmes, K.C. | 14 | 0 | 14 | 84 |
| Harrison, Ind. | 14 | 0 | 14 | 84 |
| Martin, NYJ | 14 | 0 | 14 | 84 |
| Bettis, Pitt. | 13 | 13 | 0 | 78 |
| Davis, Hou. | 12 | 12 | 1 | 78 |
| Graves, S.D. | 13 | 13 | 0 | 78 |
| Wilson, Ind. | 12 | 12 | 1 | 72 |
| McGhee, Buff. | 11 | 11 | 0 | 66 |
| Wayne, Ind. | 11 | 11 | 0 | 66 |

Kicking

| Player | PA | FG | LG | Pts |
|-------------------|-------|-------|----|-----|
| Vinatieri, N.E. | 49-50 | 31-33 | 48 | 118 |
| Stovall, Ind. | 49-50 | 31-33 | 48 | 118 |
| Elam, Den. | 39-39 | 20-20 | 52 | 114 |
| Graham, Cin. | 36-36 | 20-20 | 51 | 114 |
| Parsons, Ind. | 36-36 | 20-20 | 51 | 114 |
| Keating, S.D. | 31-31 | 19-24 | 53 | 108 |
| Smith, Pitt. | 30-30 | 18-22 | 51 | 107 |
| Stovall, Cin. | 27-27 | 20-20 | 50 | 105 |
| Johnson, Oak. | 36-36 | 20-20 | 54 | 102 |
| Slonkowski, Buff. | 31-31 | 23-26 | 52 | 100 |

Team statistics

OFFENSE

| Team | Yds | Run | Pass |
|---------------|------|------|------|
| Indianapolis | 4183 | 1212 | 2971 |
| Kansas City | 4164 | 1416 | 2669 |
| San Diego | 4163 | 1363 | 2695 |
| New England | 3545 | 1307 | 2238 |
| San Francisco | 3545 | 1307 | 2238 |
| Tennessee | 3540 | 1184 | 2356 |
| Denver | 3536 | 1184 | 2356 |
| Pittsburgh | 3524 | 1184 | 2356 |
| Philadelphia | 3524 | 1184 | 2356 |
| Oakland | 3244 | 1765 | 1479 |
| San Jose | 3244 | 1765 | 1479 |
| Jacksonville | 3174 | 1171 | 2007 |
| Atlanta | 3174 | 1171 | 2007 |
| Cleveland | 3174 | 1171 | 2007 |
| Washington | 3174 | 1171 | 2007 |
| Baltimore | 2995 | 1249 | 1747 |

DEFENSE

| Team | Yds | Run | Pass |
|---------------|------|------|------|
| Pittsburgh | 2574 | 802 | 1776 |
| Denver | 2574 | 802 | 1776 |
| San Francisco | 2383 | 1885 | 1498 |
| Baltimore | 2972 | 1956 | 1016 |
| Atlanta | 2972 | 1956 | 1016 |
| New England | 2313 | 1968 | 2145 |
| San Diego | 2313 | 1968 | 2145 |
| San Jose | 2313 | 1968 | 2145 |
| Cincinnati | 2313 | 1968 | 2145 |
| Houston | 2313 | 1968 | 2145 |
| Philadelphia | 2313 | 1968 | 2145 |
| Indianapolis | 2313 | 1968 | 2145 |
| Oakland | 2313 | 1968 | 2145 |

NFC Individual leaders

Week 15 Quarterbacks

| Player | Att | Com | Yds | TD | Int |
|------------------|-----|-----|------|----|-----|
| Culpepper, Min. | 469 | 300 | 3875 | 31 | 8 |
| Green, Tex. | 396 | 252 | 3120 | 24 | 10 |
| Bulger, S.E. | 446 | 295 | 3574 | 18 | 12 |
| Drew, Minn. | 327 | 214 | 2623 | 18 | 10 |
| Delhomme, Car. | 448 | 286 | 3539 | 17 | 12 |
| Warner, NYG | 277 | 174 | 2191 | 20 | 10 |
| Kaepernick, Sea. | 447 | 274 | 3191 | 20 | 16 |
| Brady, N.E. | 292 | 198 | 2699 | 15 | 10 |
| Rex, S.F. | 374 | 242 | 3045 | 15 | 10 |

Rushers

| Player | Att | Yds | LG | TD |
|-----------------|-----|------|----|----|
| James, Ind. | 334 | 1616 | 48 | 14 |
| Marsh, NYJ | 344 | 1547 | 29 | 12 |
| Dillon, N.E. | 343 | 1519 | 45 | 11 |
| Wright, Minn. | 333 | 1493 | 54 | 11 |
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| Henson, Tex. | 77 | 2787 | 69 | 42.7 |
| Miller, N.E. | 76 | 2637 | 66 | 42.2 |
| Larson, Cin. | 67 | 2915 | 67 | 42.2 |
| Turk, Mia. | 67 | 2915 | | |

SPORTS



In New Year's Day bowls, sixth-ranked Texas has plenty at stake, Page 26

A case for the defense

Experienced, playmaking Pats poised to repeat

By BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

They don't have the league's best record and they won't have home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

Their secondary is banged up so badly that an undrafted rookie, a linebacker and a wide receiver have played significant roles in recent games. There are concerns about a no-name offensive line, and their best defensive lineman, Richard Seymour, injured his foot on Sunday.

Are the New England Patriots done? Hardly.

Indeed, the Patriots are in better shape offensively to win the Super Bowl than they were last season. And with all the adversity on defense, they've discovered that nearly every lineman and linebacker and back on the roster can contribute.

"Guys make plays," says strong safety Rodney Harrison, the glue of the defense. "There is more focus on what they have to do when they get on the field. They look around and see how everyone is making plays and they do it, too."

They did it against the Jets last weekend to secure a first-week bye, which they'll need to heal. And that victory came after an uncharacteristic meltdown in Miami the previous Monday — a loss that cost them a shot to stay in Foxboro for the entire AFC playoffs, unless Pittsburgh loses its first postseason game.

"This is a team with a lot of mental toughness that battles and has a lot of strong character," quarterback Tom Brady said, "and when you have that, you can feel proud at the end of the day."

The Patriots have felt proud while carrying the Vince Lombardi Trophy two of the past three years. They not only are capable of doing it again, but should be considered nothing less than co-favorites with the Steelers.

Here's why:

■ Corey Dillon gives New England a running threat it hasn't had since Curtis Martin left for the Jets in 1998. Sure, Antowain

Patriots' prime-time performers



RKT

Corey Dillon (28), who has rushed for a team-record 1,519 yards this season, has given New England the dependable running game it has lacked in recent seasons, diversifying the team's potent offense.



AP

Adam Vinatieri (4) has made two last-second, game-winning kicks in the Super Bowl, has made 31 of 33 field goal attempts this season and has converted 84 percent of his field goals (107 of 127).



AP

Fifth-year pro Tom Brady continues to enhance his reputation as a winner who picks apart defenses. Since becoming a starter in 2001, he has averaged 3,425 passing yards and 23.7 touchdown passes per season.



AP

Patriots coach Bill Belichick is the architect of a defense that ranked first in the NFL in points allowed last season (14.9 per game) and is sixth this year (16.9) despite a rash of injuries that has sidelined many starters.

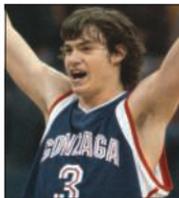
Smith was a key contributor in the two Super Bowl wins, but with Dillon the Patriots can play any style on offense. Dillon, who has set a team record with 1,519 yards rush-

ing, is powerful and has a burst. He's also a workhorse.

■ Brady's receiving corps is even deeper than last year. One week, he'll turn to veteran Troy

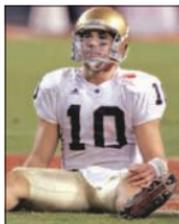
Brown — when Brown is not spending most of his time as a fill-in cornerback. Another week,

SEE CASE ON PAGE 31



Upset specialist Gonzaga topples third-ranked Oklahoma State

Page 29



Oregon State extends Notre Dame's bowl-game losing streak to seven

Page 27



Spurs, Sixers defeat league heavyweights Suns and Sonics

Page 28

After 14 seasons, Syracuse fires Pasqualoni Page 30

